

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 25 May 2021 06:30 GMT -07:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Transitioning to Nature Positive Production: Sharing Lessons Across Land and Sea
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Willow Battista, Senior Manager, Oceans Climate Solutions, Environmental Defense Fund
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13633/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13633/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

107

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

6

19-30

56

31-50

41

51-65

4

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

48 Male

59 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

12 Agriculture/crops

65 Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

2 Agro-forestry

3 Environment and ecology

3 Trade and commerce

Education

1 Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

14 Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

1 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

24 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

11 Local Non-Governmental Organization

21 International Non-Governmental Organization

6 Indigenous People

23 Science and academia

2 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

3 Local authority

3 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

11 United Nations

2 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** In the Participation demographics section above, I indicated that we had 24 "small-scale \*farmers\*" as there was no option to indicate small-scale \*fishers\*. Just over half of these small-scale "farmers" were actually fishers. \*\* The Principles of Engagement were central to the structure and content of this Dialogue event. We invited stakeholders from a wide variety of geographies and backgrounds, featured a panel discussion with small-scale fishers and farmers from 8 different countries and drastically different contexts, and carefully crafted our breakout groups to ensure people would feel most comfortable to share their unique perspectives and concerns. We referred repeatedly to how efforts to implement nature-positive production systems can and must contribute to achieving the SDGs, and directed people to consider a near-term future in envisioning a transformed food system. This Dialogue was part of a series of 3 that we helped to convene in partnership with the Blue Foods Assessment and WWF that sought to highlight the value of aquatic foods for food and nutrition needs, elevate the voices of small-scale fishers, and this final Dialogue designed to facilitate the sharing of lessons between small-scale fishers and farmers who have been working to implement nature positive production. We thus built off of the work of others, and are carrying this work forward in our ongoing engagements.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Through the panel questions we posed as well as the breakout group discussion question (see our attached Detailed Agenda) we explicitly directed speakers and participants to articulate their views with a sense of urgency, and to consider specifically what must happen at the Summit itself to enable success. We embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity by ensuring a variety of small-scale producer perspectives were well-represented among our participants, as well as bringing food and nutrition policy and decision makers into the "room" with these voices to connect groups who don't often have a chance to make themselves heard at the government level with these key decision-makers. We also took steps to ensure a respectful Dialogue environment, and to recognize and face head-on the complexities involved with efforts to transition to nature-positive production. In addition, we provided simultaneous translation to ensure all participants felt empowered and comfortable to share their views.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Marginalized groups are not necessarily going to be able to engage in these Dialogue events without direct engagement and extra efforts to ensure they have the capacity to participate, such as hosting events in time zones that align with the groups you hope to reach, connecting them with technical support and providing simultaneous translation. Small-scale actors like fishers and farmers are not (necessarily) combing the internet for opportunities to get involved in UN-developed virtual events, so if we truly want to hear their voices we (the NGOs, governments, and other highly-engaged agencies) need to be the ones to actively seek them out and to create these opportunities in a way that will be truly accessible to them.

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

There are numerous ways that land- and sea-based food provisioning systems can transition to nature-positive production, but there are also numerous and significant challenges to doing so, especially at a scale and pace sufficient to meet the world's growing food and nutrition needs. Protecting biodiversity, ensuring sustainability, building resilience to climate change, and fostering equity will require bold action and sensitivity to the needs of vulnerable communities.

This Dialogue sought to bring together smallholder stakeholders producing food across both land and sea who are working to achieve nature positive production. Our aim was to foster collaboration that can help move the needle across sectors, and to channel their voices to food system decision-makers.

We believe we achieved 3 primary objectives:

- Shining a spotlight on similar challenges and opportunities for solution implementation across sectors;
- Sharing lessons learned from each sector that could be valuable for the other;
- Identifying areas where food system decision-makers could be better supporting these small-scale actors.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

Our key findings fall roughly into three high-level categories: 1) "Opportunities"; 2) "Challenges"; and 3) "Support Needs and Calls to Action" (including action items for the Summit.)

### \*Opportunities:\*

- ~ Transitioning to nature positive production can generate more food for people who need it most, while aligning production with capacity of the environment and building resilience to climate change.
- ~ Nature positive production gives people living in regions with high insecurity and uncertainty the agency and capacity to produce their own food and livelihoods.
- ~ Nature positive production safeguards producers' ability to continue working and living as farmers and fishers, to maintain customs, traditions, and ways of life. Also potentially makes farming/ fishing appealing to the youth again.
- ~ In some cases, nature positive production can even contribute to climate change mitigation efforts (e.g., regenerative aquaculture; enriched agricultural soil; etc.)
- ~ Maximizing connections across land and sea can help solve shared challenges, e.g., how to develop new markets, scale operations, and access funding.
- ~ Small-scale producers are the most vulnerable to food insecurity, system shocks, and affects of climate change, but they are also at the forefront of efforts to transition food production systems to nature positive techniques – they need more support!

### \*Challenges:\*

- ~ Governments are not listening to the needs of small-scale producer communities.
- ~ Small-scale producers have little agency and are not empowered to engage in decision-making.
- ~ It is extremely challenging for small-scale producers to change fishing gear/ farming techniques (especially at scale) without government support and funding.
- ~ Equally challenging for them to access or develop new markets and scale new operations.
- ~ Ecosystem services are undervalued/ not valued in government policies.
- ~ Climate change impacts are advancing much faster than small-scale producers can adapt on their own.

### \*Calls to Action:\*

- ~ Avoid demonizing producers and instead bring them in to be part of solution development.
- ~ Support community organizing, knowledge sharing, and collective action – management is about people, not just production!
- \* Center needs and ideas of small-scale producers in decisions.
- \* Build capacity of existing local organizations and create strong laws that support their rights and abilities to engage.
- \* Collect and utilize community-generated data, and ensuring community members are informed about management decisions
- ~ Build and strengthen secure tenure rights for small-scale actors, ensure they are allocated and regulated according to Tenure Guidelines.
- \* Where such rights don't exist, focus on improving access to technology/ digital tools to enable collaboration, organization, and advocacy.
- ~ Policies must address climate change and support small-scale communities in staying ahead of the climate change curve.
- ~ Value ecosystem services and count food in terms of micronutrients that are critical to vulnerable communities.
- \* Implement "conservation benefits" (converse of "polluter pays") principle.
- \* Ensure markets value food and nature positive production.
- \* Support small-scale producers in helping to meet \*local\* food and nutrition needs.
- ~ Governments should allocate more budget to adaptation of, and compliance with, nature positive techniques and gears - support the transition, and then ensure strong compliance.
- ~ Policies must be integrated across land and sea, with coordination throughout Ministries of Production, Environment, Health, etc.

## ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
✓	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
✓	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

## KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

We chose to ask each of our 8 breakout groups to address the same discussion topic (see attached Agenda). Here we present a compilation of the outcomes of these discussion groups, organized into Key Actions and Key Challenges.

**\*Key actions that governments and the international F&N community should take to support small-scale producers as they seek to transition to nature positive production:\***

- ~ Strengthen organizational capacity of local organizations, center and amplify the voices of small-scale producers, and support the technical and economic needs identified by these communities (including women and youths).
- \* Support small-scale producers with economic and technical transitions to nature positive production.
- \* Support participatory, equitable data collection that uses technologies/instruments that are adaptable and flexible to different contexts.
- ~ Apply a climate lens to planning on land and sea. Climate is changing this landscape. We need to be forward thinking about what we produce and how.
- \* Much climate adaptation happens at the local scale - we need to support these small-scale producers and invest in them, then scale up.
- \* We must re-imagine "protected areas" through a climate lens, and must ensure small-scale producers are engaged in design. E.G., Can we create "blue carbon zones" that can fit many things like reforestation, producing food, eco-tourism, wind farms, etc.
- \* Support diversification both within and outside of the sector E.G., growing/catching diversified species; diversification of livelihood options.
- \* Support circular use economies, E.G. utilizing waste products as fishmeal and fertilizer instead of harvesting an entirely separate stock for these uses.
- ~ Respect, value, and invest in traditional, Indigenous, and cultural values and resource management techniques, especially in vulnerable and isolated communities.
- ~ Support development and application of low-cost and flexible technologies, and use existing scaled technologies (e.g., telecommunications) to facilitate nature positive production at scale.
- ~ Work together across sectors to tackle the huge challenges we face. Take a system-wide view.
- \* Consider creating Ministries of Food.
- \* Coordinate across countries to establish governance structures and learning networks that support and facilitate nature-positive production techniques, keeping in mind that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions.
- ~ Recognize the contribution small-scale producers make to nutrition, food security, and climate adaptation and abatement, not just production.
- ~ Support private transitional investors (those filling the void between NGOs and traditional banks).
- ~ Nature positive production techniques can make farming more attractive to the youth again.

**\*Biggest challenges/ obstacles facing small-scale producers seeking to transition to nature positive production:\***

- ~ Small-scale producers are generally not included in decision-making - only large-scale producers. When they are included, it's not in a meaningful way. E.G., "open comment periods" on laws vs. actually having a seat at the table to design the law.
- ~ Every geography has different characteristics and context, so solution development must be rooted in local knowledge (making it hard to scale solutions).
- ~ Lack of funds/ safety nets to see producers through the transition to new techniques.
- ~ Very difficult to market new "nature positive" products at scale to create viable new sectors.
- ~ Lack of locally-relevant data, especially ecosystem-scale and climate impact data.
- ~ Illegal harvest and low enforcement of regulations is still a major challenge, especially for small-scale fisheries.
- ~ Many policies and existing ownership structures (e.g., ownership of land, of fishing rights, etc.) encourage only short-term thinking and action on the part of the producers.
- ~ Lack of supportive systems (e.g., linkages for products, etc, policies to help smallholders compete) for smallholders. The systems are geared toward larger players.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

None identified in this Dialogue.

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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### KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate



# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Event Agenda**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/UNFSS-Dialogue\\_Sharing-Transformation-Lessons-Across-Land-and-Sea\\_Agenda.docx](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/UNFSS-Dialogue_Sharing-Transformation-Lessons-Across-Land-and-Sea_Agenda.docx)

# CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES

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Title Link to event recording

Date 10/08/2021

Recording of the keynote talks and panel discussion that took place during the first hour of this event. All panelists have been dubbed into English to allow for automated subtitling (by YouTube) into any language. If you are interested in viewing an un-dubbed version of this video, please contact the event Convener at [wbattista@edf.org](mailto:wbattista@edf.org).

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **EDF-hosted UNFSS Dialogue: Transitioning to Nature Positive Production - Sharing lessons across land and sea**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00s66BNnDmU>