



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations




# Inland fisheries

Location, production, value and contribution  
to food security, livelihoods and the SDGs

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The global population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050

Inland capture fisheries have an important role to play in feeding this population

Especially in Asia, Africa and parts of South America

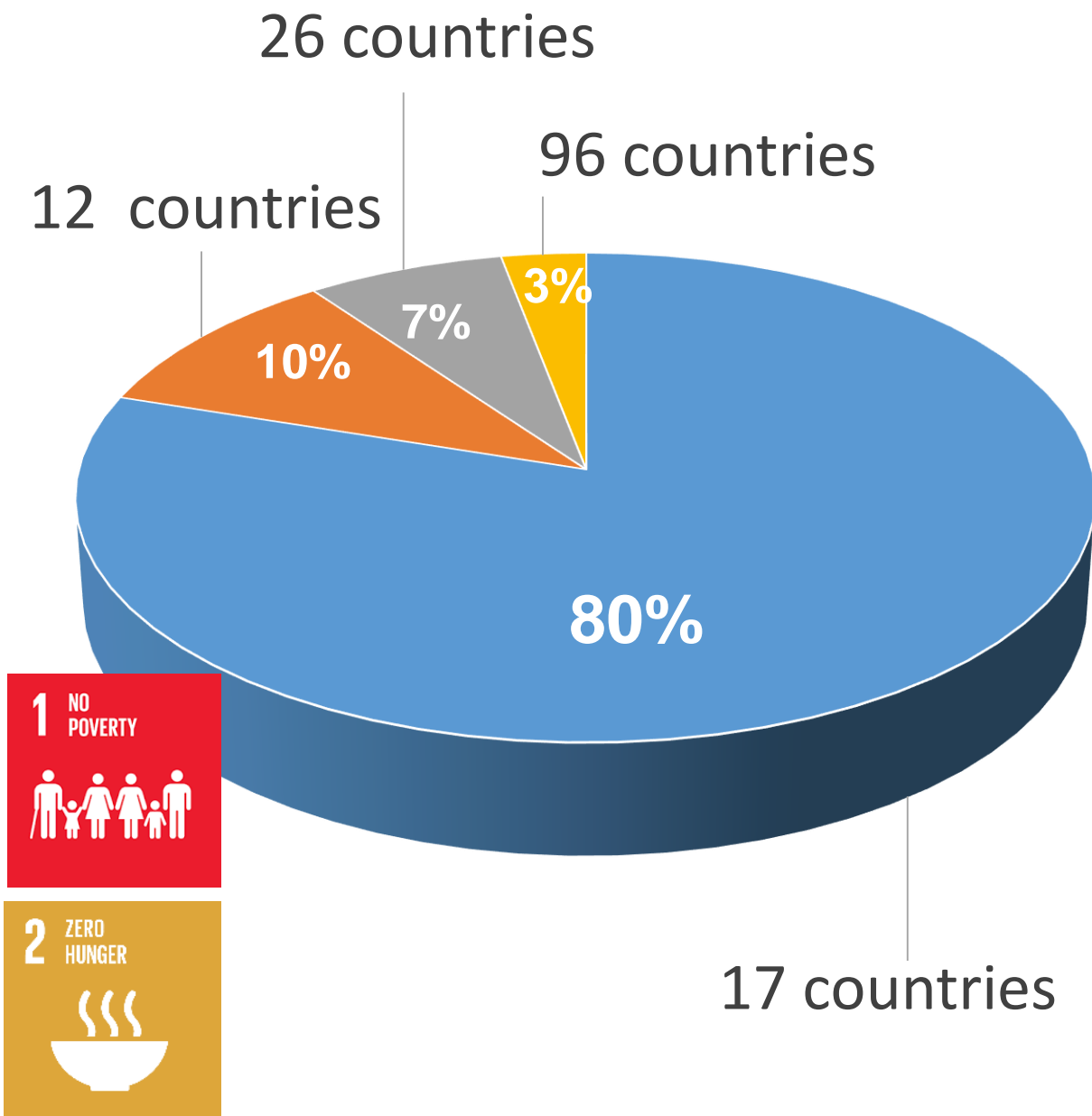
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Inland fisheries take place in a wide range of aquatic environments, both natural and man-made

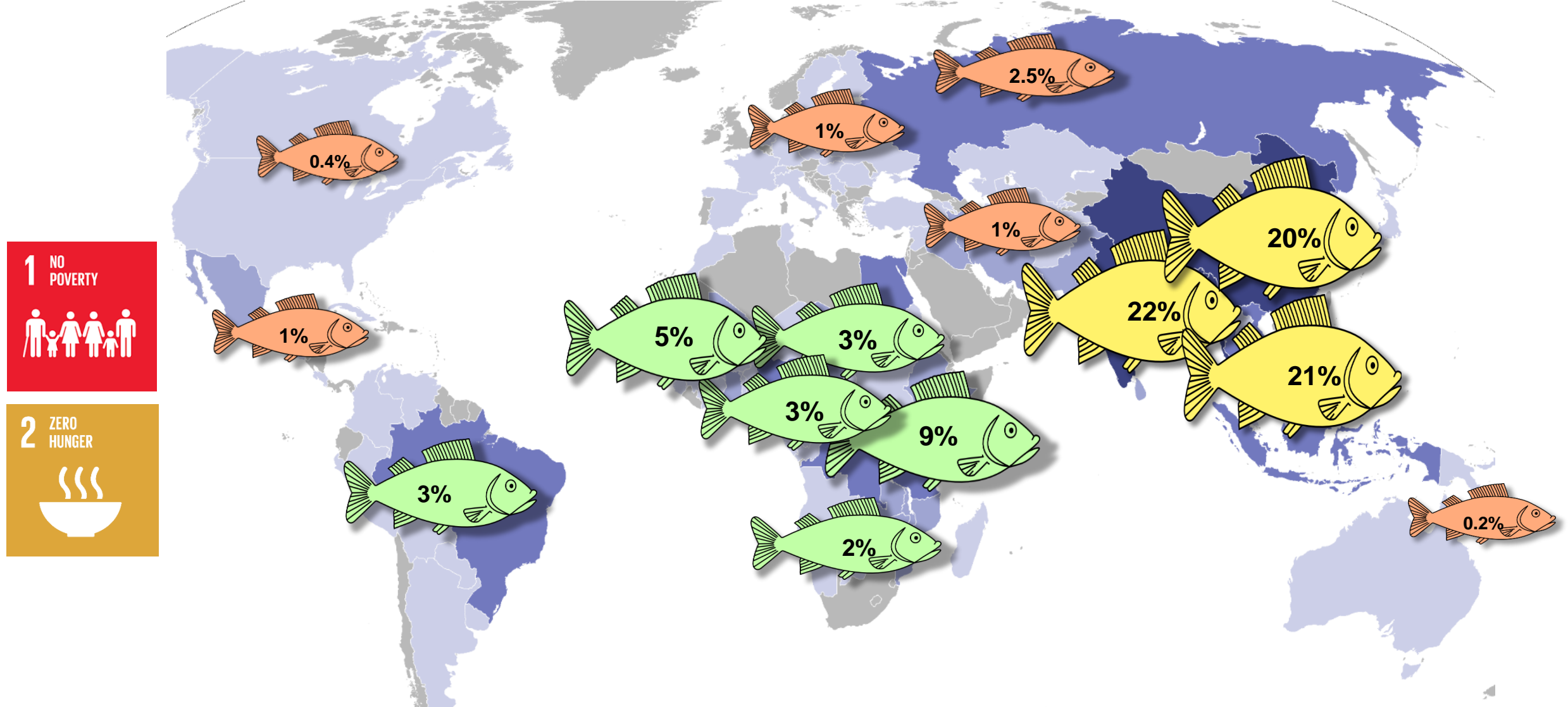






80% of inland fish catch come from just 17 countries.

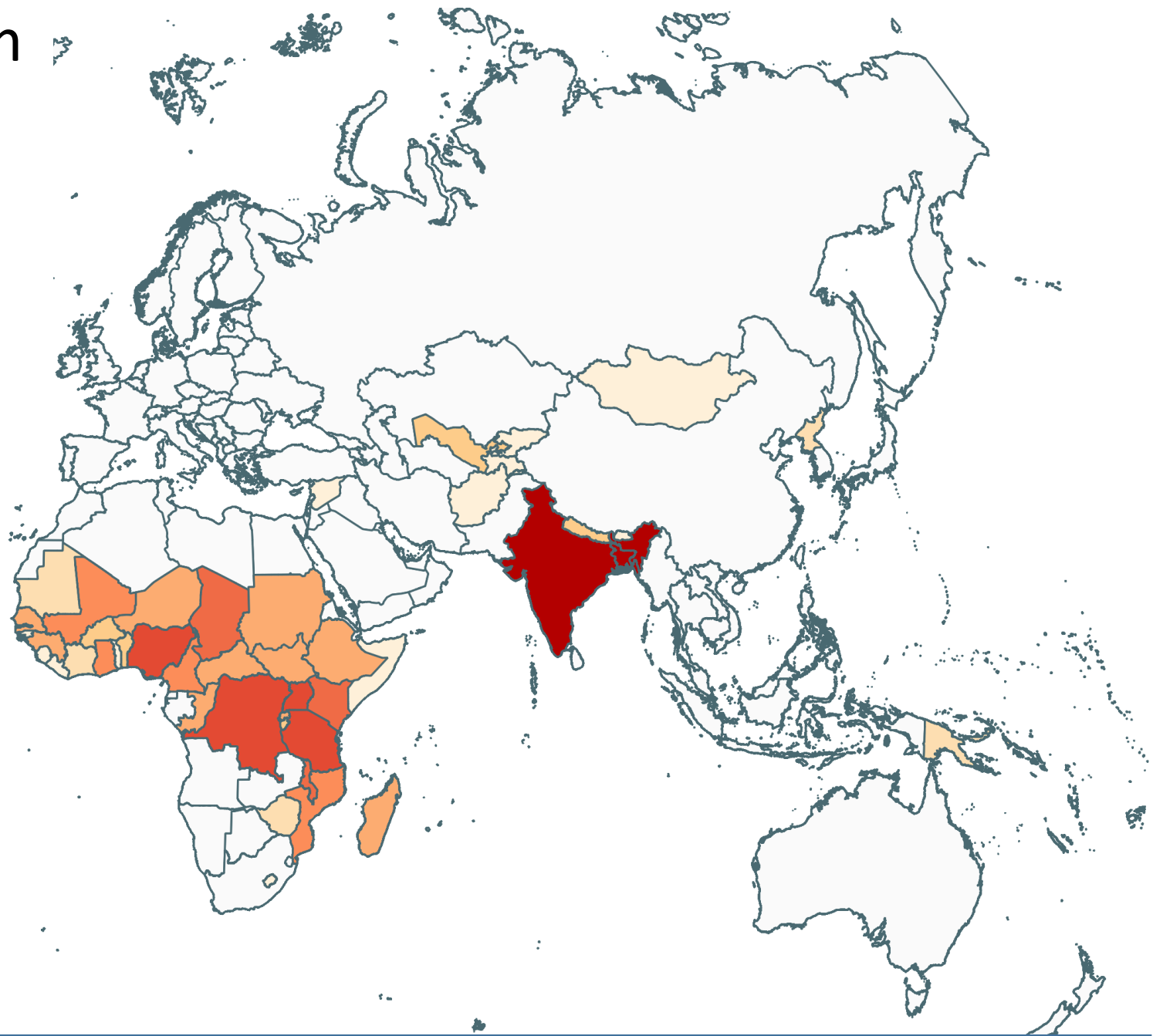
Inland fisheries are still very important to for nutrition and food security in smaller countries which may not contribute much to the global total.



Inland fish catch mainly comes from Asia, but important in Africa, South America

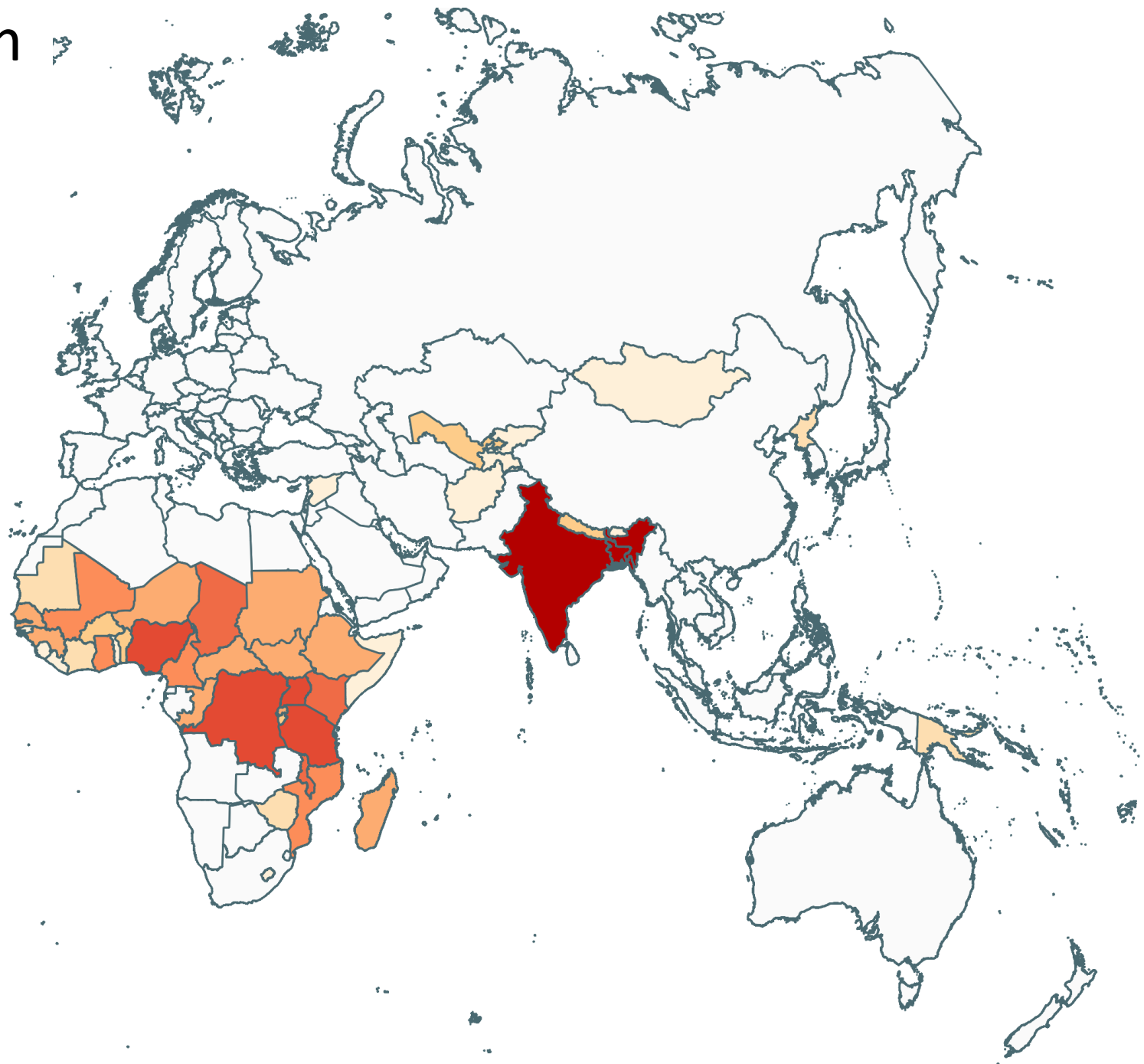
# 43% of inland fish come from Low Income Food Deficit Countries

Highlights dependence in  
poorest countries in the  
world



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Inland fisheries contribute nutritional equivalent of 2% of the total global of full dietary animal protein (158 million people)

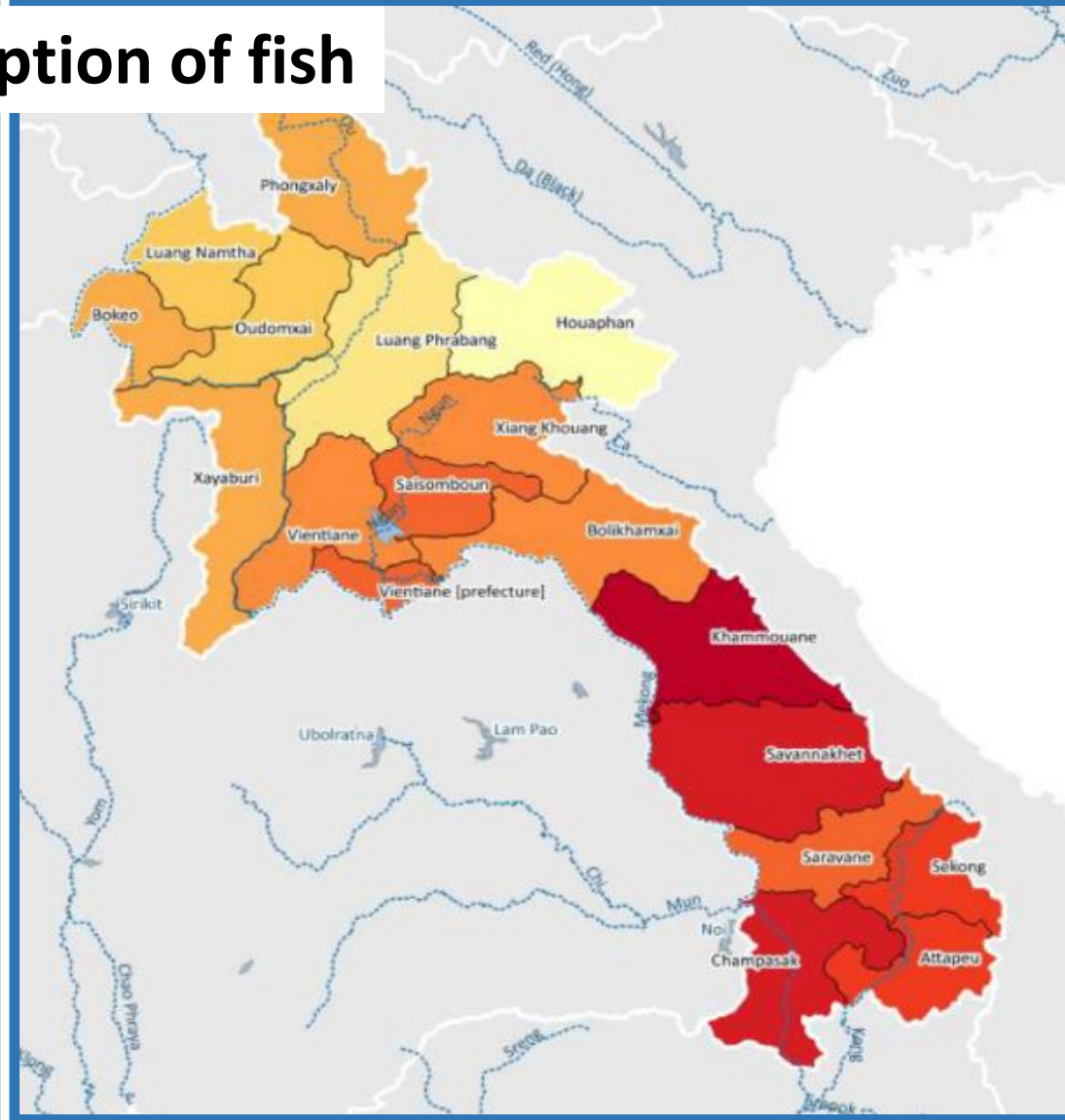
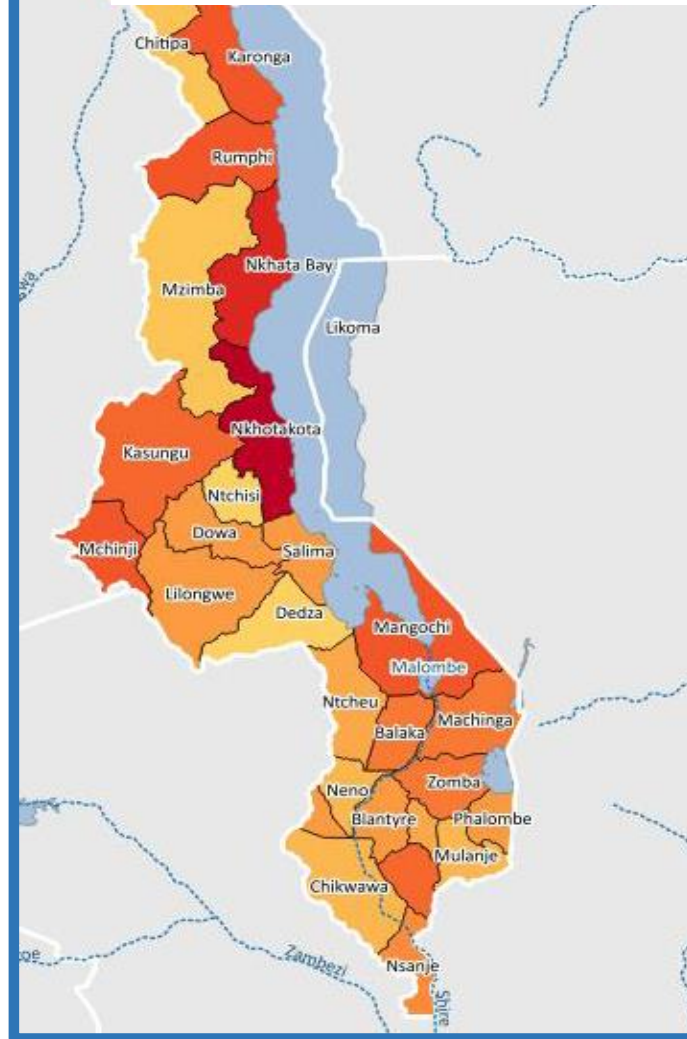
Adding nutritional quality in otherwise poor diets



Wide  
variation in  
importance  
of inland  
fish



## Per capita consumption of fish





Large-scale inland  
fisheries provide 11 - 13  
percent of global inland  
fisheries catch

540,000 – 740,000 tonnes

12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION





Small pelagic fisheries of African great lakes provide >50% of global commercial inland fisheries catch

Important contribution to African food security

Extensive and complex regional trade network across the continent



Photocredit: Guy Oliver/IRIN





Inland fisheries increasing or stable in most countries

Reports may hide underlying problems, and weakness in monitoring



Global inland fishery catch  
underestimated  
**65% higher** than reported  
(2008)

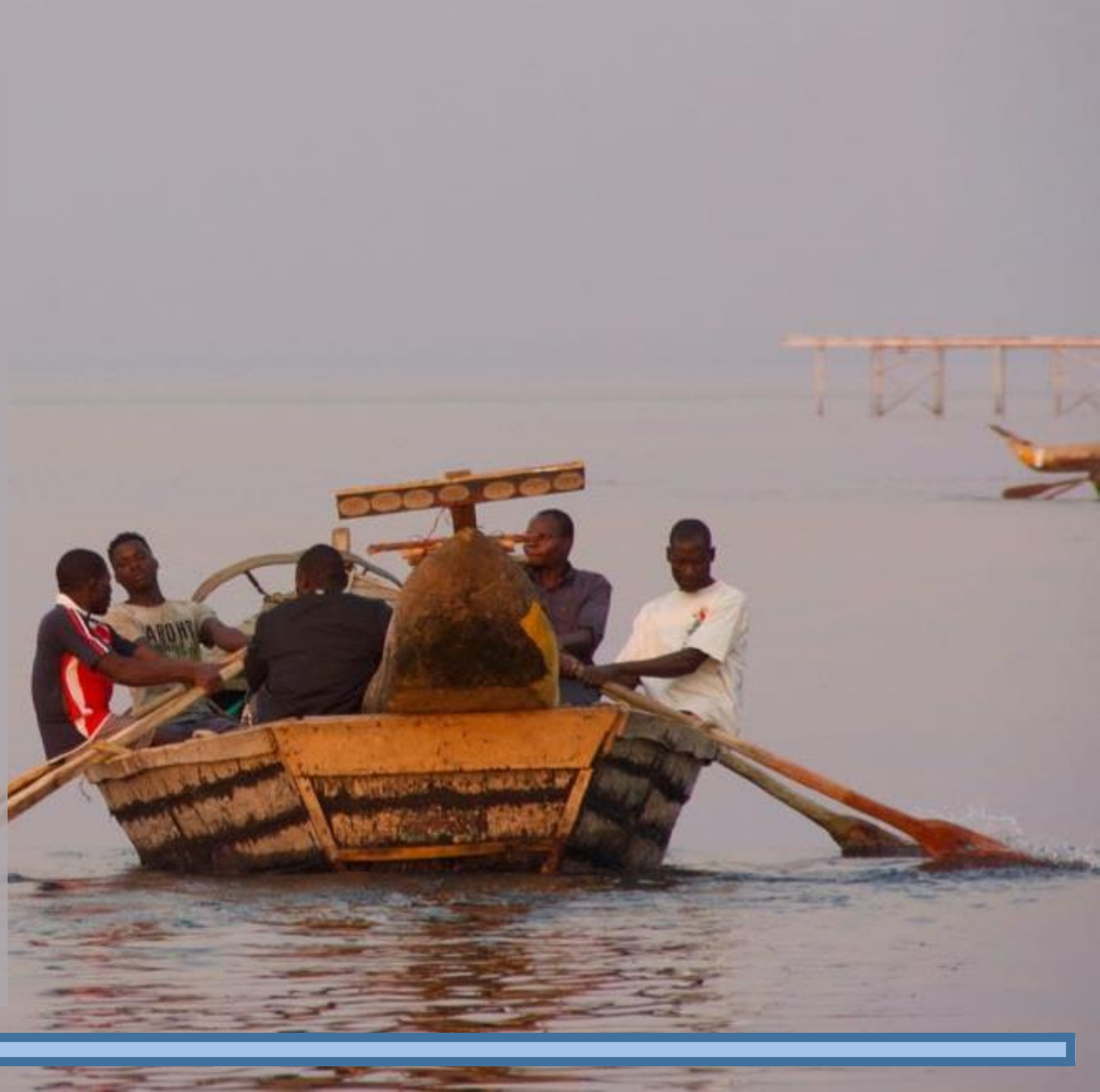
Modelled inland fisheries  
catch using household  
consumption surveys



Global Total Use Value  
of inland fisheries  
**~\$26 billion/yr**

Adding hidden  
fisheries, this rises to  
**~\$43.5 billion**

All under-estimated...

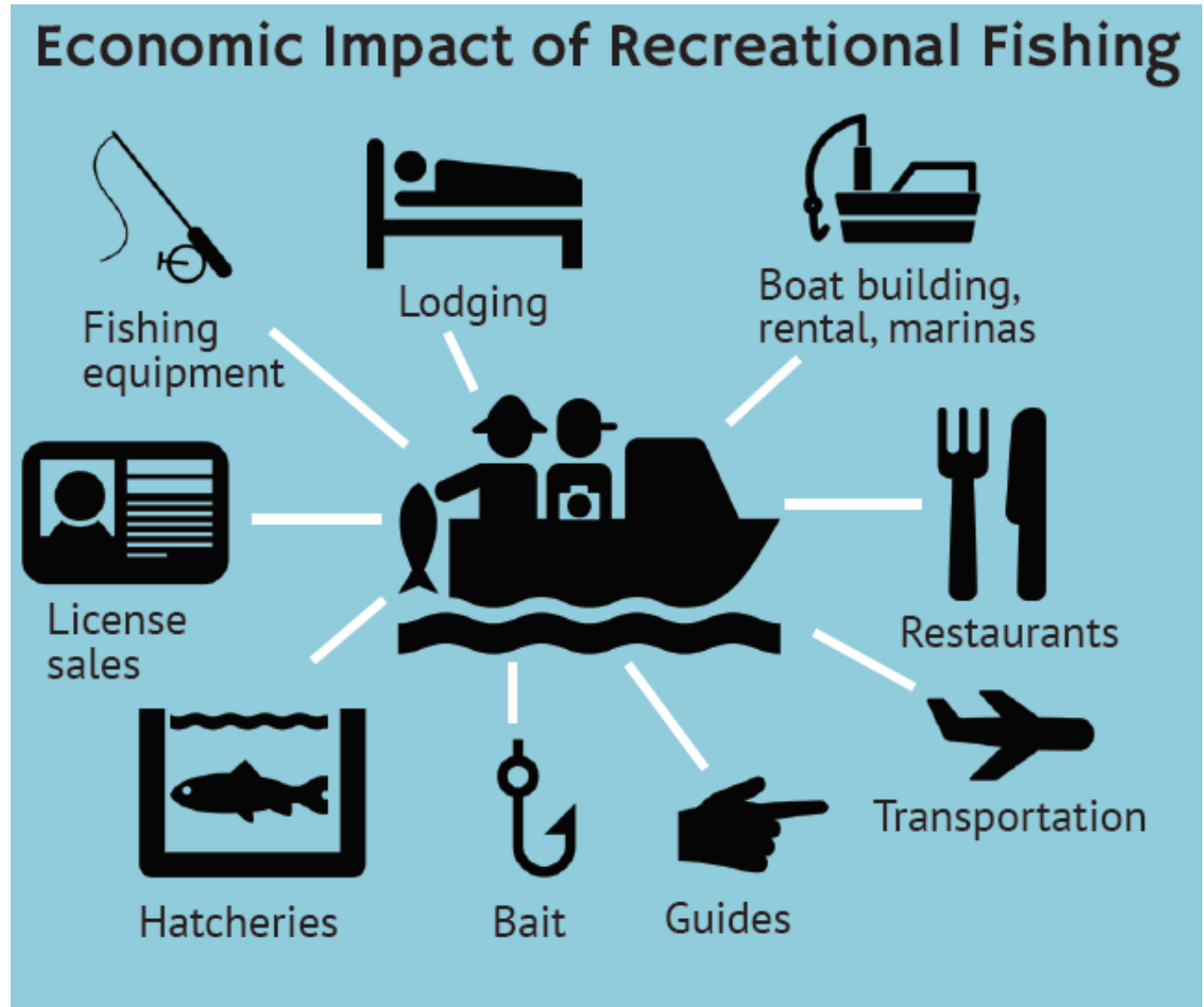




Recreational fishing use values far higher than value for food fisheries

Estimated Non-Market Use Value **\$65 - 79 billion**

Majority of value in developed countries

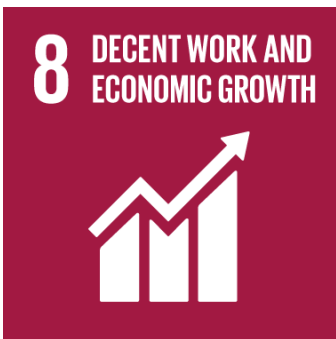




Inland fishing employs  
2.5 – 6% of the global  
agricultural workforce

Women > 50 percent of  
the workforce in inland  
fisheries.

Predominantly rural,  
small-scale





5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



Women's engagement in inland fisheries is often invisible

Play a significant role in post-harvest, marketing and fishing (61 countries)

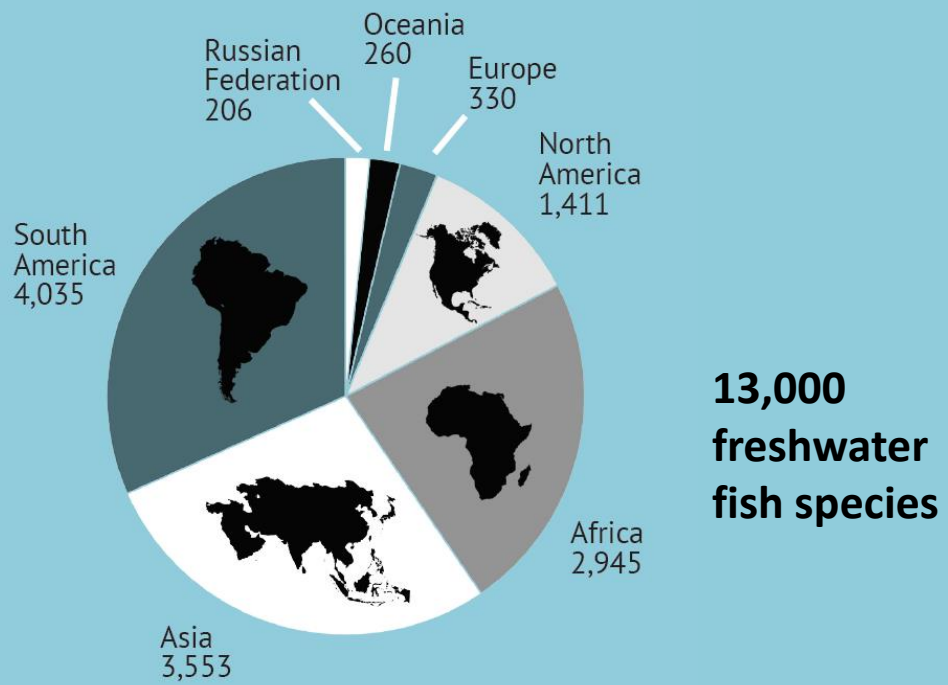
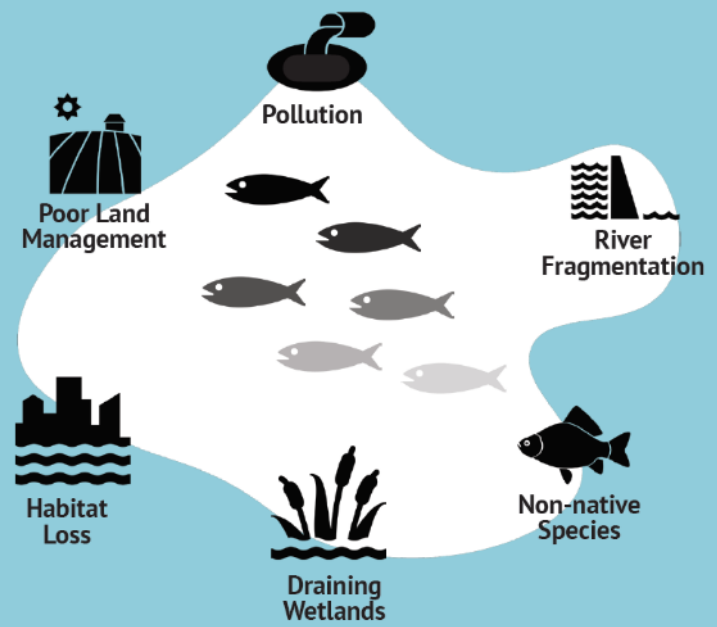


Post harvest 1:1



1 fisherwoman to every 7 fisherman

Major impacts on aquatic biodiversity

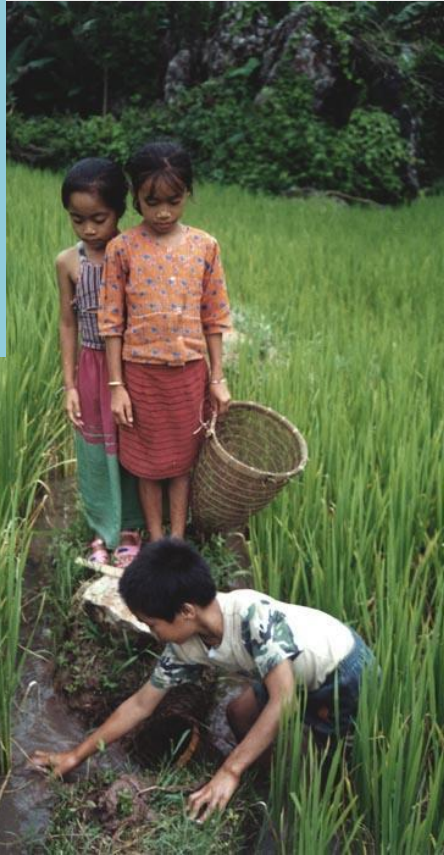


Aquatic ecosystems  
biodiverse source of food

Provide Food, ecosystem  
function, recreation,  
genetic material for  
aquaculture







Ricefields are an important source of aquatic biodiversity for food

>230 species of fish, insects, crustaceans, molluscs, reptiles, amphibians ...and plants (in addition to rice)



Inland fisheries often  
invisible, important to some  
of the worlds most  
vulnerable people...

May also be the reason  
many rural people have  
resilient livelihoods.







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FIAF/C942 Rev.3 (En)

FAO  
Fisheries and  
Aquaculture Circular

ISBN 978-606-55

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD FISHERY RESOURCES:  
INLAND FISHERIES



For more information please download:  
“Review of the state of the world fishery  
resources: inland fisheries” C942 (Rev.3)

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0388EN/ca0388en.pdf>