

World fisheries development — the Canadian contribution

Drawing on its experience as a fishing nation, Canada, over the years, has assigned a substantial share of its assistance to developing nations on fisheries management and development projects. This assistance has been channelled both bilaterally (nation-to-nation) and multilaterally (through international institutions). The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) administers Canadian assistance to developing countries and, in the case of fisheries projects, it obtains technical support and advice from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Examples of Canadian fisheries support include:

Senegal, where Canadian experts have been training national fisheries staff in the techniques of fisheries zone patrol and surveillance. Since 1971, CIDA has been helping Senegal's Centre for Assistance to Small Scale Fishing in a project to improve the quality and distribution of fisheries projects.

Peru, where at the request of the Peruvian Ministry of Fisheries, CIDA funded research by Canadian scientists on the anchovy, a valuable species whose abrupt decline threw the Peruvian industry into a crisis.

The Caribbean, where CIDA has assisted St. Lucia in developing a long-term plan for fisheries development and has funded the construction of docks, cold storage facilities, ice-making equipment and other facilities.

Southeast Asia, where CIDA has supported the work of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in reducing post-harvest losses by improving quality control and inspection systems.

Zambia, where CIDA has been involved in a project to link lake fisheries to important purchasing centres with all-season feeder roads to allow small-scale fishermen to get their fish to market. The Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF), a Canadian non-governmental organization, has been active in fisheries development in Zambia and Botswana.

Multilaterally, Canada is funding projects managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization to develop small-scale fisheries in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

In 1985, responding to requests from several developing countries, Canada and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations co-sponsored a consultation of experts to begin development of a world-wide system for marking and identifying fishing vessels.