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Contact:

Jason Scott

(212) 974-0111

[jscott@ekoamp.com](mailto:jscott@ekoamp.com)

**EKO ASSET MANAGEMENT RELEASES REPORT ON FINANCING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

***Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Rockefeller Foundation-funded study concludes that financing the transition to sustainable fisheries can address both environmental and social challenges***

New York, NY (March 24, 2014) – EKO Asset Management Partners (EKO) today released a study that explores how impact investing, by attracting private capital, could fund the transition from conventional to more sustainable fishing practices in wild capture fisheries. Conducted with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Rockefeller Foundation, and in cooperation with environmental groups Oceana and Rare, the report, *Sustainable Fisheries Financing Strategies*, is based on findings from Brazil, Chile, India, and the Philippines.

Around the world, fisheries provide 80 million tons of seafood annually, supporting approximately 20% of global protein intake and contributing to a \$400 billion seafood industry. Currently, however, 32% of wild fisheries are already overexploited or depleted, and the rising demand for seafood driven by population growth and economic development is up against a dramatic decline in seafood supplies if overfishing and habitat destruction continue unabated. Proper fisheries management is a proven strategy that has the potential to increase the volume of fish in the ocean by 50% and increase fishers' catch by 40% from current levels. A fully protected ocean could provide a meal for 700 million people each day, which is almost double what the ocean currently provides.

"Ecosystems, including the oceans, provide essential services to humankind, yet are systematically undervalued and overexploited," said Dr. Judith Rodin, President of The Rockefeller Foundation. "When it comes to fisheries, we can now glimpse a new paradigm. This is a problem we can solve, but no sector can solve it alone. EKO has provided a model for private investors to join philanthropy, civil society, policy makers and corporate actors to ensure the livelihoods of millions and the food security of billions in the future."

*Sustainable Fisheries Financing Strategies* - please find a copy of the report here:

<http://ekoamp.com/our-publications/> - concludes that private capital has the power to accelerate the adoption of sustainable fishing methods, generating both financial returns as well as social and environmental impacts. Other findings include:

- Near-shore fishers suffer disproportionately from limited access to markets, product perishability, and waste. As such they are constantly pushed to overfish their waters.
- Larger seafood companies may be willing to support the financing of fisheries improvements if they can partner with a trusted intermediary to implement fisheries improvement plans.
- Sustainable fishery management can strengthen communities. Investment in fisheries management systems ensures access to financial capital in poorer coastal regions of the world, and helps lead to long-term protection and maintenance of ecosystems.
- Private investment in sustainable fisheries can lend support to individual livelihoods, including increased and more dependable incomes and improved food security. It can also bring about critical environmental returns such as stock recovery, habitat protection, and increased biodiversity.
- Investments should prioritize improved fishing practices on the water, construction of route-to-market infrastructure, and the funding of improved fisheries monitoring and stock assessment services.

“Overfishing is a serious problem that has major consequences not only for the health of our oceans, but for the health of communities around the world. Those in the fishing industry are working harder than ever, yet they are catching fewer fish -- and if nothing is done, the situation will continue to get worse. Providing financial incentives to support sustainable fishing practices can -- with changes in local communities and national governments -- help reverse this trend,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, philanthropist and 108th Mayor of New York City.

"Fisheries have incredible potential to turn small investments into big returns for communities and the environment. A single project can generate marine ecosystem benefits, jobs and food security to local communities, and financial returns to investors. As we build these kinds of projects over time, the multiplier effect is just enormous," said Adam Wolfensohn, Board Member of EKO.

EKO also received grants from Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Rockefeller Foundation to build on the findings of the report, to identify and develop specific innovative financing mechanisms -- or investment blueprints -- capable of deploying private capital to transition threatened fisheries into economically and sustainable fisheries.



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### ABOUT EKO

EKO is an investment management and advisory firm that develops and implements innovative approaches to financing conservation and environmental sustainability designed to deliver attractive returns to investors. EKO was founded by professionals with extensive experience in finance, banking, asset management and environmental conservation. EKO's most recent work has focused on carbon, water, fisheries and natural infrastructure.

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