



MINISTERIO  
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES  
Y DE COOPERACIÓN



# Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP)



Photo: Dylan Walker

## A warm welcome



Welcome to this first edition of the Spanish-funded and FAO-executed Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (RFLP) e-newsletter in 2011. Through this e-publication we will create awareness of our activities while sharing resources, knowledge and experiences amongst the six countries participating in RFLP as well as with a wider audience. Wherever possible we will provide links to our website where further information can be found and we welcome the non-commercial use or adaptation of any of our materials. We also encourage input or feedback on any of our activities. Our goal is to cut down on unnecessary 'reinvention of the wheel' while maximizing the efficiency and impact of our activities. Those highlighted in this newsletter present just a selection of what we do and I encourage you to visit our website to find out more. I wish you interesting reading and look forward to hearing from you!

**Jose Parajua**

Regional Programme Manager

## Visit RFLP online at [www.rflp.org](http://www.rflp.org)

The RFLP website is home to information and news on RFLP activities in the six countries in which we operate (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam) as well as on the RFLP's five key fields of activity (co-management, safety at sea and reduced vulnerability, post harvest, strengthened and alternative livelihoods and increased access to micro-finance services).

The screenshot shows the RFLP website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: About RFLP, Where we work, Co-management, Safety at sea, Post harvest, Livelihoods, Micro finance, Gender, and Media. Below the tabs is a large image of children in the water. To the right of the image is a quote: "The RFLP seek to improve the livelihoods of fisher folk and their families in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Viet Nam by fostering more sustainable fisheries resources management practices." Below the image are three news articles: "RFLP supports National Fisheries Day in Viet Nam" (dated 1 April 2011), "Dangerous wreck removal improves safety in Sri Lanka's Negombo lagoon", and "Highlights of RFLP activities in 2010". Logos for FAO and aacid are also visible.

## Safety at sea

### Wreck removal helps Negombo lagoon fishers

Fisher safety in Sri Lanka's Negombo lagoon will improve following an RFLP-supported operation to remove 22 hazardous sunken fishing boats. By April nine boats had been retrieved using a traditional way of hauling the boats off the lagoon bottom, without resorting to the use of modern heavy machinery which could damage and disturb the fish habitats within the lagoon.



For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/safety\\_at\\_sea](http://www.rflp.org/safety_at_sea)

### RFLP connects Vietnamese fishers

Nearly 300 small-scale fishers in Quang Tri province will be able to communicate whilst at sea after being provided with mobile phones by RFLP. In all, 296 Nokia mobile phones have been handed over to owners of small-scale boats which engage in near-shore fisheries. The phones are a cost effective and practical means of enhancing boat-to-boat and boat-to-shore communication.



For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/safety\\_at\\_sea](http://www.rflp.org/safety_at_sea)

## Livelihoods

### Young Indonesians to benefit from vocational training

School drop outs and unemployed youth in coastal fishing communities of East Nusa Tenggara province will benefit from a joint initiative being carried out by RFLP working with the ILO's Education and Skills Training (EAST) project. Some 25 trainers are being trained in how to provide vocational skills that meet market demands. By using these new skills, it is expected that the trainers will help increase employment opportunities for school drop outs and unemployed youth in the target areas.



For more see: <http://www.rflp.org/livelihoods>  
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### Coastal communities trained in seaweed cultivation

As part of its goal to develop alternative livelihood options for fisher communities, RFLP has worked with the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Agency of Kupang District in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara Province to support the establishment of sustainable seaweed culture in Poto Village. Fifty participants from the village were given training in seaweed cultivation and seaweed processing techniques. They were also taught how to select and prepare good seedlings as well as plant them out using the long-line method.

For more see: <http://www.rflp.org/livelihoods>

*"Now I know why our previous attempts to raise seaweed were a failure. The seaweed was too close to the surface of the water where the heat of the sun damaged it."*

*Mr. Fanggidae, one of the trainees.*



## Co-management

### RFLP Philippines partners commit to improving fisher livelihoods

Fishers in Zamboanga del Norte will benefit following the signing of agreements formalizing collaboration between RFLP partners. The agreements define the major initiatives to be undertaken by RFLP and the roles and responsibilities of local government units, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the provincial government of Zamboanga del Norte necessary to ensure their success.

For more see: <http://www.rflp.org/philippines>



## Vessels register supports marine resource management

671 fishing boats have been registered by the Marine Affairs and Fisheries office (DKP) of Rote Ndao District in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara Province as part of an RFLP supported initiative to better manage fishing effort in the Savu Sea. All boats based in the district were measured and registered on a database created to help authorities manage boats undertaking fishing activities in the area.

For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/co\\_management](http://www.rflp.org/co_management)

*"The database will help us better manage the number of boats fishing and the types of fishing gear used. This will give the sea a chance to restore its resources."*

*James Rivwu, Rote Ndao DKP.*



## Micro-finance services Finance for fishers

RFLP has worked with the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) to carry out a study in the six RFLP countries to assess ways of increasing access to micro-finance services by small-scale fishers. A 'Fish Finance' workshop was held in Bangkok in January to present the results of the study and to assess how best to incorporate the results into RFLP work plans.

For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/access\\_to\\_micro\\_finance](http://www.rflp.org/access_to_micro_finance)

*"Stewardship of resources is vital to the development of fishing communities, not only resources in the sea but also financial resources."* Dr Ike Navarro

## Post harvest Clean and cold in Timor-Leste

Ice is vital to preserve fish whilst it is being transported and sold. However, in Timor-Leste it is not easy for fishers to obtain ice due to unreliable electricity and a lack of necessary techniques and equipment to produce it. In response, RFLP has collaborated with the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA), to conduct a pilot project to produce ice and distribute it to a number of fish landing centres known as 'Lotas de Pescas' in the country.

For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/post\\_harvest](http://www.rflp.org/post_harvest)

*"This pilot project really helps us preserve our fish. Previously, we only used our locally produced ice that was inadequate in terms of both quantity and quality. Our fish decayed very easily and we lost a lot of money."*

*Mr. Luis A Freitas  
Chief of Saruntu  
fishers Group.*



## Gender RFLP supports gender meet

RFLP supported participants from Viet Nam, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Cambodia to attend the 3rd Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries held in Shanghai 21-23 April 2011. They presented papers to the symposium on gender issues relevant to RFLP and gained new experiences to put to use on their return to their home countries.

For more and to download presentations see: [http://www.rflp.org/gender\\_symposium\\_shanghai](http://www.rflp.org/gender_symposium_shanghai)

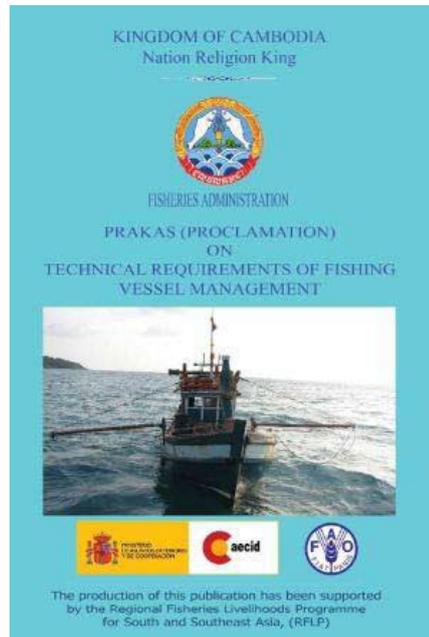


*"The symposium provided an opportunity to discuss, share and learn from other participants and helped me to come up with new ideas relevant for my research."* Dr. Nguyen Dang Hao, Hue University

## Proclamation on the technical requirements of fishing vessel management in Cambodia

RFLP has provided support to the Cambodian Fisheries Administration for the publication of a proclamation on the technical requirements of fishing vessel management. The proclamation defines the technical requirements necessary for fishing vessels with a loading capacity of over 500 kg in order to ensure the safety of fishers and other waterway users as well as to protect the environment. The proclamation also provides a template for a fishing vessel log-book that all vessels covered by the proclamation must use. The proclamation is available in Khmer with an English translation.

For more information or to download see: <http://www.rflp.org/Cambodia>



## Best practices for gender mainstreaming in the fisheries sector

A report has been produced on the findings of an RFLP workshop held to create a platform for sharing knowledge on the theme of gender and fisheries, and to identify tools to be used by project staff to best integrate gender needs into small scale fisheries projects.

For more information or to download see: <http://www.rflp.org/gender>

## Cambodia baseline survey

The final report of the RFLP baseline survey for Cambodia (English) is now available online. Conducted in 15 Community Fisheries (CFis) in Cambodia's four coastal provinces, the survey provides a wealth of information in relation to the RFLP's five planned programme outputs. A Khmer-language version will also soon be available.

To download: <http://www.rflp.org/cambodia>

## Gender training manual and awareness materials

RFLP has supported the printing of a Training Manual on Gender Awareness and Gender Mainstreaming in the Fisheries Sector as well as gender awareness materials produced by the Cambodian Fisheries Administration. The training program is designed to provide awareness of basic gender concepts and gender mainstreaming in the fisheries sector and can be used at national, provincial and local levels. All materials are available in both English and Khmer.

For more information or to download see: <http://www.rflp.org/gender>

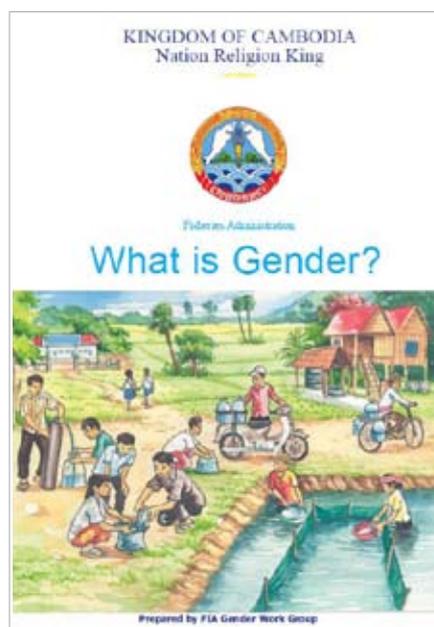


Photo: Dylan Walker

## Improving livelihoods of small scale fisheries and aquaculture households

RFLP has supported production by the Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission of a publication detailing "Best practices for supporting and improving livelihoods of small scale fisheries and aquaculture households."

A second publication entitled "Best practices for supporting and improving livelihoods of small scale fisheries and aquaculture households: Country case studies" provides innovative example livelihoods case studies from APFIC countries.



To download see: <http://www.apfic.org>

## Sustainability audits for sardines and reef fish in Zamboanga del Norte

Sustainability audits for sardines, groupers and snappers have been carried out in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province.



The audits outline the key attributes of the fishery relevant to management based on an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) while identifying issues requiring priority intervention to help ensure long-term sustainability. Based on the audits fisheries improvement plans have been developed, parts of which will be supported by RFLP.

To download see: <http://www.rflp.org/philippines>

## Reporting accidents at sea

RFLP has trained trainers and village rapporteurs as well as produced simple leaflets on reporting accidents at sea as part of its pilot of an accident reporting and analysis system for small fishing vessels, in selected areas of Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The leaflets are available in English and Khmer with more translations to follow.

To download see: [http://www.rflp.org/safety\\_at\\_sea](http://www.rflp.org/safety_at_sea)



## Training needs assessment in fisheries co-management for Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam provinces of Viet Nam

The studies provide a comprehensive understanding of the training needs related to fisheries co-management of government officials and fishers as well as suggestions for training.

To download see: <http://www.rflp.org/vietnam>

## Review of selected (fish) marketing chains and arrangements in Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces of Viet Nam

The study, conducted by Spanish NGO AIDA for RFLP, provides comprehensive understanding of the current market value chain status for Scad in Thua Thien Hue and Anchovy in Quang Nam and makes recommendations for potential ways to improve fish marketing by local small-scale fishers.

To download see: <http://www.rflp.org/vietnam>

Following are examples of on-going RFLP activities or activities which will soon be implemented:

RFLP will support participation by officials from the national climate change adaptation and fisheries agencies of the six RFLP countries at an Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) workshop in Nepal in May 2011 to highlight the implications of **climate change on fisheries and aquaculture** in the region.

RFLP is scoping the possibility of launching a **recognition**

**scheme for well co-managed small-scale fisheries.** The 'Good Fish Code' would help drive improved management of the fisheries as well as encourage resilience.

Mechanisms are being studied as to how coastal communities could benefit financially from **mangrove conservation** and sustainable management.

A field handbook on **mainstreaming gender into project cycle management** in the fishery sector will soon be completed, as will **baseline survey** reports for Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.



## Timor-Leste

Two surveys on **fish consumption and animal protein consumption** will help provide up-to-date data on consumption patterns in the country as well as the potential demand for both processed and fresh fishery products. A **Tetum-language glossary of terms used in fisheries legislation** in Timor-Leste is being developed. This will help local officials better understand and implement legislation which is written in Portuguese. An **aquaculture development strategy and action plan for Timor-Leste** is being developed for RFLP by WorldFish, while RFLP has also undertaken a preliminary analysis on a **Human Resources Development Plan for the National Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA)** carried out by Spanish agency TRAGSA.



## Cambodia

The development of **Community Fisheries Area Management Plans** is being supported in the 15 Community Fisheries (CFis) where RFLP conducts operations in Cambodia. The 15 plans will be signed in a ceremony in Preah Sihanouk on 11 May. Cambodian boat builders will take part in RFLP-supported training on the construction of an **improved 12 metre traditional timber fishing craft**. Installation of **anti trawling/push-net/clam dragger devices** in conservation areas of six CFis will take place. Best practice manuals on **Good Hygienic Practice and Good Manufacturing Practice** for fisheries products will also be developed.

In addition RFLP will hold an exhibition of photographs of **women in fisheries** in Svay Rieng and Phnom Penh to mark National Fish Day on 1 July.

## Viet Nam

**Co-management committees** will be established in pilot communes in Quang Tri province following the planned **establishment of provincial fisheries associations**. A feasibility assessment for the **improvement of fish landing centres and development of fish auction systems** is taking place in Thua Tien Hue and Quang Nam provinces by INFOFISH. Furthermore, an assessment is being made of the feasibility of **environmentally friendly integrated fish and pig raising** as well as bio-gas systems in Quang Tri province.



## Sri Lanka

**Fisheries and environmental profile reports** will be completed for Negombo, Chilaw and Puttalam lagoons. Twenty-four **management committees** will be established in Chilaw and Puttalam lagoons while **demarcation of Chilaw and Puttalam lagoon boundaries** will take place. **Solar powered lights** will be installed at certain landing sites and wrecks. A technical assessment is also being carried out to identify **home garden and livestock development** opportunities.



## Philippines

A multi-media campaign highlighting **women's participation in co-management** will take place. RFLP will help finalize the formulation of **Coastal Resource Fisheries Management Plans**, conduct **fisheries law enforcement training** and carry out management planning in 12 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the **formulation of MPA management plans**. Fishing households will also be formed into **enterprise groups** with emphasis on women's groups.



## Indonesia

RFLP will support the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries to introduce **ID cards and land certification for fishers**. Work will continue to establish a **pilot MPA in Kupang district** and to support on-going MPA implementation by WWF in Alor district. **Community Control Groups will be strengthened** and trained in monitoring, control and surveillance techniques. Possible improvement of **fish landing centres** in RFLP target areas will be assessed and activities to boost **food security for coastal households** will take place.



## Shining a light on RFLP

RFLP featured in the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre's Fish for the People magazine (vol 9, number 1, 2011) with an article about RFLP actions to shine a light on the invisible role of women in fisheries. See the publications page at: [www.seafdec.org](http://www.seafdec.org)

RFLP featured alongside Lady Gaga in the March edition of Iberia's in-flight magazine and also made the pages of Spanish fishing magazine Ruta Pesquera [www.rutapesquera.com](http://www.rutapesquera.com)



### About RFLP

The Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP) sets out to strengthen capacity among participating small-scale fishing communities and their supporting institutions in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. By doing so the RFLP seeks to improve the livelihoods of fisher folk and their families while fostering more sustainable fisheries resources management practices. The four-year (2009 – 2013) programme is funded by the Kingdom of Spain and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) working in close collaboration with national authorities in participating countries.

### Contact us

We welcome feedback, comments or suggestions on any of RFLP's activities please contact RFLP Information officer Steve Needham at [steve.needham@fao.org](mailto:steve.needham@fao.org) or on tel. +66 85 480 3988