



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

Highlights

Harnessing the power of *Tara Bandu* in Timor-Leste

RFLP is harnessing the power of traditional laws in Timor-Leste known as *Tara Bandu* to reinforce community management of coastal resources.



A marker showing an area protected by a
Tara Bandu

Tara Bandu restrict access to and use of natural resources and spaces and as such constitute a traditional resource protection and management mechanism. However, they do not exist in written form and consequently are not incorporated into the Timorese legal system.

RFLP is helping communities document *Tara Bandu* and submitting them to authorities seeking to recognize the usage and enforcement of traditional laws. As a first step, RFLP staff have conducted interviews with elders to collect information on the *Tara Bandu* process.

So far the RFLP work on *Tara Bandu* has been well received with a written version of the *Tara Bandu* in Beacou, a fishery community in Bobonaro District already drafted and agreed by the community.

"Trying to introduce new fisheries regulations is not easy, and getting fishers to comply is even more difficult. On the other hand traditional rules are well known by communities." RFLP's Enrique Alonso.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Tara_Bandu

Success story

Anti-trawling devices snag illegal fishing gears in Cambodia

Ten illegal fishing nets have been reported destroyed by anti-trawling devices installed by RFLP at Community Fisheries in Cambodia's Preah Sihanouk province. Forty concrete anti-trawling devices designed to stop the use of illegal push nets and dredges by fishers were positioned on the seabed of the Bek Krang-Chumpou Khmao community fishery area in October 2011. In all, RFLP has helped install anti-trawling obstacles in the waters of six of the Community Fisheries it works with.

Mr. Em Phea of the Cambodia Fisheries Administration said, "I got a phone call from fishers telling me that their fishing gears had been destroyed by the cement blocks and asking me to put up a sign so that they could easily recognize and avoid entering this area. I told them that they had used illegal fishing gear in the first place and were not allowed to fish this way even outside this area."

For more see: www.rflp.org/Cambodia_anti_trawling



Follow RFLP on Facebook

RFLP is now on Facebook. Get updates on RFLP news, events and resources by joining RFLP's Facebook site at www.facebook.com/FisheriesLivelihoods

Patrol boats handed-over in Thua Thien Hue

Two patrol boats provided by RFLP were handed over to Fisheries Associations (FA) in Viet Nam's Thua Thien Hue province in December 2011.



The boats will be used by FA members in Ha Cong (Quang Loi commune) and Loc Binh 1 (Loc Binh commune). They are expected to enhance the effectiveness of the teams that patrol the spawning and breeding areas in their communes.

For more see: www.rflp.org/vietnam_patrol_boats_handover

Caught in the net! Leon Postigo Fisheries Law Enforcement Team snags illegal fisher

A Fisheries Law Enforcement Team from Zamboanga del Norte's Leon B. Postigo municipality which was formed with RFLP support arrested an illegal fisher in November 2011. A fisher from Sindangan municipality was nabbed



for operating a beach seine net during a designated ban period. He was reprimanded and fined Php500, a small amount as it was considered a first offense. The arrest however is a signal to fishers from the neighbouring town that the local government of Leon B. Postigo is serious about enforcing its fishery laws.

"We now have beautiful collaboration from the community. Local fish wardens now tip us off about information unlike before when we could hardly get any," Ricardo Mahinay, Leon Postigo's Municipal Fishery Technician.

For more see: www.rflp.org/fisher_snagged

NTT villagers embrace mangrove replanting

Over 400 fisher families in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Province helped plant 60,000 mangrove seedlings under a mangrove rehabilitation programme recently carried out by RFLP and World Food Programme (WFP).



The planting forms part of RFLP's strategy to enhance marine resources and to educate fisher communities and students about protecting the coastal environment.

"This rehabilitation effort will not only bring advantages for us through more marine resources but also for our children in terms of reducing vulnerabilities to disasters." Yarmut Tulle, head of Pitay Village.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Indonesia_mangroves

Fishers receive training on safe navigation in Sri Lanka

Some had heard of them, ninety five percent had never seen one, while absolutely none had any idea how to use one. Although nautical maps can be a life saver at sea, small-scale fishers in Sri Lanka's Negombo, Chilaw and Puttalam regions have never had a chance to own one or learn how to use it. Through a series of one-day training sessions, RFLP recently trained 150 fishers in the basic use of nautical maps and other navigation tools to increase their safety at sea.

"This training will boost fishers' interest to learn more about safe navigation and make them more aware of technical advancements that can reduce their vulnerability at sea." RFLP safety at sea consultant Capt. Jayasinghe.



For more see: www.rflp.org/Sri_Lanka_navigation

Post harvest

Better fish drying techniques offer higher incomes for Sri Lankan fisher women

Women in fishing communities in Sri Lanka's Puttalam, Chilaw and Negombo districts are drying fish in a more hygienic and profitable way following training provided by RFLP. Fish drying is a major activity in the three districts, however it often takes place under poor hygienic conditions. As a result the end product can only be sold cheaply. RFLP training has helped boost awareness on food safety, hygiene and sanitation while introducing improved processing, labeling and packaging techniques that should lead to higher value products.

For more see: www.rflp.org/fish_drying

Tackling post-harvest losses in NTT

Post-harvest fisheries loss is a significant concern in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur province as it equates to a loss of valuable protein for consumers and lost income for fishers, processors and traders. Seeking to address this issue, RFLP undertook a series of awareness raising activities on fisheries supply chain improvement and good handling practices during November and December 2011. Some 600 fishers, fish traders and seaweed farmers as well as consumers and housewives took part.



For more see: www.rflp.org/Indonesia_post_harvest_losses

For more information see www.rflp.org

Change story – Panties help La Concepcion ladies out of tight spot

"This sewing project is a big help to us! We can now buy a kilo of rice from our earnings every Saturday and give our kids a few Pesos for daily allowance at school," explained Razel Anadeo, 50, leader of the La Concepcion Women's Association sewing project in Zamboanga del Norte's Sindangan municipality.

RFLP has supported the group to sew panties and briefs as an alternative income source to support families during monsoon months when their husbands cannot fish.

"We are happy RFLP supported this project as it is indeed an alternative livelihood! It really saves the day's income when our husbands can't go out to fish during bad weather."

Judith Laguna, the sewing project's Production Manager.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Philippines_panties



Change story – Linay women see better prospects in sewing than fishing

"I have earned Php 760 (USD 18) now for three days running. Not bad for days without any catch," says Modesta Villarin, 55, of the Linay Women's Association (LIWOA) in Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte.

"From 1992 to 2000, we were able to send our five children to school through my husband's fishing. But fishing has never been good since then! Now, my husband is lucky if he gets any catch for the night," Modesta says.

LIWOA had already been trained in sewing but due to a lack of capital and equipment the group was never able to translate the knowledge and skills into increased incomes. RFLP provided additional training to the group as well as a number of sewing machines and other equipment.

"We are very happy with this project. This is the first time we have been trained, received the equipment, capital and raw materials we need and then been able to start producing goods instantaneously!" group member Maria Bautista



For more see: www.rflp.org/Linay_sewing

Mainstreaming gender into project cycle management – Vietnamese

A Vietnamese language version of the RFLP field guide 'Mainstreaming gender into project cycle management' is now available for download at www.rflp.org/gender

Khmer safety at sea poster

A poster outlining safety 'do's' and 'don'ts' for Cambodian fishers has been produced in Khmer language. Download at www.rflp.org/safety_at_sea



Fish handling good practice materials (Bahasa)

A set of Bahasa language awareness materials on fisheries supply chain improvement and good handling practices has been produced. Download at www.rflp.org/post_harvest

Glossary of legal terms (Tetum)

A Tetum-language glossary of terms relating to legal or technical aspects of fisheries in Timor-Leste has been produced. Download at www.rflp.org/Timor_Leste

Environmental profiles: Chilaw and Negombo lagoons

Environmental profiles of Sri Lanka's Chilaw & Negombo lagoons have been produced and are available for download. Download at www.rflp.org/Sri_Lanka

RFLP will undertake a wide variety of activities over 2012. The following is a summary of some of the planned highlights.

Regional level

Work will continue on raising awareness of a **recognition scheme for well co-managed small-scale fisheries** and piloting will commence in the Philippines and possibly Indonesia. Results of the independent **mid-term evaluation** team findings will be acted upon to increase RFLP impact during the remaining 19 months.

Cambodia

Catch monitoring and patrolling capacity will be strengthened while additional **anti-trawling devices** will be installed. Data will be collected on accidents at sea and efforts will be made to **reduce fish loss** and increase awareness on post harvest issues. Livelihood pilots including **mushroom cultivation** and **rice banks** will be launched and micro-finance services tailored to the needs of coastal fishers.



Indonesia

Fishing boat registration will commence for Kupang municipality, Kupang and Alor districts. A pilot linking the provision of **Fisher ID-cards and insurance for fishers** will be launched and fishers and inspectors trained in fishing boat safety. A **Fisheries and Marketing Information System** will be trialled while livelihoods actions will include training on **dyes and modern designs** for women weavers. **Village-based savings** institutions will also be formed.



Philippines

RFLP will intensify technical assistance to local initiatives protecting growth, maturation and recruitment of **sardines** and **key demersal fish species** woting adaptive local fish-eries management policies for gear as well as **seasonal and spatial restrictions**. Support will be provided



to the formulation of **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans**. At least seven new livelihoods projects including **abalone, oyster and seaweed culture** will be assisted.

Sri Lanka

Fisheries and mangrove management plans will be implemented and monitored for Negombo, Chilaw and Puttalam lagoons. **A database to record accidents at sea** will be established while some 1,000 beneficiaries will be trained on post harvest quality management. **Vocational training** courses will be completed and trained youths supported to start self employment activities. **Management Information Systems** will also be set up in selected micro-finance institutions.



Timor-Leste

The implementation of a **statistical system for catch data** will continue as will the provision of training on **basic engine maintenance** and **fibreglass repairs**. Introduction of ice in two landing sites and the operation of an ice management system will be prioritized. Further support will be provided to the establishment of a **national fiser's cooperative**. The new **National Aquaculture Strategy Plan** will be presented and pilot aquaculture activities launched.



Viet Nam

Activities will focus on strengthening the operation of **Fisheries Associations**. Community-based management plans developed in 2011 will be piloted. **Disaster preparedness** training will take place. Key post harvest outputs will include renovation of **Thuan An fishing port**, a fish auction pilot and better sanitation at fish markets. Alternative livelihood pilots will include **chicken rearing** and **snakehead culture**.



Resources we like

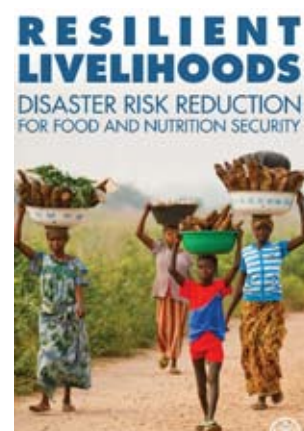
The SARNISSA network

The SARNISSA network seeks to facilitate the sharing of knowledge between those interested in aquaculture issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. It's Facebook and Twitter pages contain excellent links to a wide variety of interesting resources from around the world. See www.sarnissa.org for more



Disaster risk reduction for Food and Nutrition Security

Resilient Livelihoods is FAO's Framework Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security. It provides strategic direction for the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures in agriculture, forestry and fisheries at local, national, regional and global levels. Download publication at: www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2540e/i2540e00.pdf



Demand and supply of feed ingredients for farmed fish and crustaceans

This FAO publication reviews feeding practices for major cultured fed species. It recommends approaches to feed ingredient selection with emphasis placed on the use of nutritionally sound and safe feed ingredient sources. Download at: www.fao.org/docrep/015/ba0002e/ba0002e.pdf

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

Should you have any feedback, comments or suggestions on any of RFLP's activities please contact the information officer steve.needham@fao.org