



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
Y DE COOPERACIÓN



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

Highlight

Blocks, poles and patrols: decreasing illegal fishing in Cambodian Community Fisheries

The deployment of anti-trawling structures such as concrete poles and cubes as well as regular patrolling activities appears to be helping decrease illegal fishing in Cambodian Community Fisheries (CFis), particularly in in-shore 'no-take' community conservation areas established to enhance stock recruitment.

RFLP supported 15 CFis to develop Community Fisheries Area Management Plans, which were formally agreed in May 2011. Developed through a participatory process they marked an important step in the empowerment of communities to manage their resources.

The deployment of the anti-trawling devices and enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) capacity for the communities formed part of the plans. Anti-trawling devices were deployed in six CFis between August to December 2011, while the CFis and the authorities have also received patrol boats and other MCS equipment such as binoculars, GPS, cameras and radios from RFLP.

Anti-trawling devices have had some success in combating illegal fishing, the concrete blocks snagging and breaking a number of illegal motorized push nets and trawl nets. Better collaboration between the communities and Fisheries Administration as part of co-management activities has also helped enhance the effectiveness of patrolling.

A total of 31 arrests were reported in the 15 CFis supported by RFLP in the three month June – August 2012 period with some boats impounded and illegal fishing gear and illegally cut mangrove wood confiscated by the local authorities.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/anti_trawling

For more information see www.rflp.org

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Newly renovated Thuan An Fishing Port ready for business

After five month's construction, the RFLP-supported upgrade of Thuan An Fishing Port in Viet Nam's Thua Thien Hue Province has been completed. The newly renovated port was handed over to provincial authorities in a ceremony held 24 August. Thuan An Port is the biggest fish landing centre in the province, receiving approximately 7,000 landings with a total catch of some 15,000 tonnes on average yearly. Key features of this renovation include the expansion of the trading hall; improvement of the water supply, drainage system and toilets as well as the installation of lighting and garbage bins. RFLP will also support the piloting of a fish auction at the upgraded fishing port. This will be the first time a fish auction system has been operated in the country.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/Thuan_An_opens



Opening the port: Mr. Nguyen Van Nhuan, Port Director (2nd left); Mr. Pham Trong Yen, RFLP National Project Director (4th left); and Mr. Nguyen Quang Vinh Binh, Thua Thien Hue Programme Management Unit Director (2nd right)

Co-management



Village Regulations support resource management in Indonesia

'Village Regulations' governing local resource management, that were developed through a participatory process involving communities and the authorities with the support of RFLP, have gained government approval in two Indonesian villages.

RFLP has worked with a local organization - the Lendola Foundation - to develop 'Village Regulations' (Bahasa acronym - PERDES) and to have them recognized by the government. These provide the legal basis for villages to regulate and control the use of marine and coastal resources in their area including the setting up of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

The documents detail prohibited illegal fishing activities, sanctions, endangered species to be protected, marine zones to be protected as well as other rights and obligations for all people depending upon the sea for their livelihood.

This process marked a major step in the co-management process as it directly involved fishers and other community members many of whom had never before been consulted or involved in any decision making or management process.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/village_regulations

Positive signs for Dipolog sardine catches

A three-month closed season on catching sardines in the Philippine's Zamboanga del Norte province appears to be yielding positive results. Early indications based on fisher feedback point to an increase in sardine catches following the end of the closed season compared to the previous year (when there was no closed season). RFLP has supported a number of measures in this regard including the training of Fisheries Law Enforcement Teams which have actively upheld the ban, the development of a Fisheries Improvement Plan for sardines, support to catch monitoring surveys as well as awareness raising activities.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/dipolog_sardines



Task forces reduce illegal fishing activities in Viet Nam



A fisher hands in an illegal electric fishing device

Task forces set up with RFLP support in Viet Nam's Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces are having success in helping reduce illegal fishing activities. A number of households in Viet Nam's Quang Nam province have voluntarily agreed to give up illegal fishing practices while others have turned in illegal fishing gear following the establishment of commune task forces and awareness campaigns, also supported by RFLP.

Six task force teams were set up by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Quang Nam communes in early 2012 to combat illegal fishing. Each team is headed by the Commune Chief Police Officer and has from 9-17 members depending on the actual situation and available personnel. Their establishment and operations are officially recognized by the local authorities.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/Vietnam_taskforces

Patrol boats handed over to Cambodian authorities

RFLP handed over four speed boats to the Marine Fisheries Administration Inspectorate and three Fisheries Administration (FiA) Cantonments from Preah Sihanouk, Kampot and Koh Kong Province on 22 August. The boats will be used to combat illegal and destructive fishing activities in Community Fisheries as well as to rescue fishers in case of accidents.

"I admit that FiA Cantonments are facing challenges in combating illegal fishing activities due to a lack of transportation. However, I hope that these well-equipped speed boats will help a lot in protecting and combating illegal fishing activities for our Community Fisheries," said H.E Sbond Sarath, Governor of Preah Sihanouk Province.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/speed_boats



Saved by a life jacket

K.S. Justin, a 44 year old fisher in Kalpitiya on Sri Lanka's northwest coast is alive today because of a life jacket provided to him by RFLP.

"I learnt about life jackets for the first time during the RFLP training," recalls Justin. "The training has been very useful for fishers like us. I was lucky enough to receive a life jacket and other safety equipment which saved my life few months back," he explains.

"It was 29th of April this year and I went to sea with a young boy of 14 as there were no skilled fishers to accompany me. Although this was the rough monsoon season we still go fishing as and when time permits. We were about 20 kilometers from the shore and the weather was getting worse and the waves were getting bigger. I was at the back of the boat wearing the life jacket and all of a sudden a big wave hit us and I was knocked into the water."

"The boy got scared and stopped the engine. I shouted that I was safe with the jacket and to bring the boat towards me. I can swim, yet it was difficult as I have back pain, am unfit and am not as strong as I was when I was young. Strong winds had blown the boat about 20 meters away and as the boy was inexperienced it took some time for him to re-start the engine and come in search of me. However, I was safe and from this experience, I fully realize how important this life jacket can be to fishers like us."

"Every fisher should wear one. I keep telling people how important they are and I am glad many others have become interested when they found out a life jacket saved my life."

For more information see: www.rflp.org/safety_culture



Mr K. S. Justin

Minister hands over ambulance and surveillance boats

Two motorized boats provided by RFLP in Sri Lanka: one to be used as an ambulance boat and one for monitoring and surveillance activities have been handed over by Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Dr. Rajitha Senarathne. The ambulance boat will serve the fishing communities of the Kalpitiya Islands, ferrying passengers to the hospital on the mainland. Meanwhile, the monitoring and surveillance boat was provided as part of the fisheries management plan developed for Negombo Lagoon to support co-management of fisheries resources.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/Sri_lanka_boats



Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Dr. Rajitha Senarathne (left) hands over the boats

Quang Nam Fisheries Association begins direct product marketing

A Fisheries Association in Viet Nam's Quang Nam province has carried out direct marketing activities for the very first time to boost awareness and sales of its products and has received a number of orders as a result. RFLP supported the establishment of Binh Minh Commune Fisheries Association in 2011 and has helped build its capacity through training and financial assistance. In order to start generating income for its members, the FA is seeking to directly market local fisheries products to new customers and has approached small scale retailers and large wholesalers alike, with some early success.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/direct_marketing



RFLP-assisted bottled sautéed shrimp products pass export standards



Three bottled sautéed *bagoong alamang* (shrimp paste) products made by groups supported by RFLP in the Philippines have met government standards for export, according to a report released by the Fisheries Quality Control Laboratory of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources based in Zamboanga City. RFLP has supported the groups by providing training on using more hygienic processing and preparation techniques such as the use of pressure cookers. Pressure cookers and other basic equipment, as well as ongoing mentoring were also given to the groups.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/export_certification

Kupang processor group picks up first prize for fish snacks

A fish snack processor group from Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur province which received support from RFLP has won first place in a contest recognizing Small and Medium Enterprises producing fish and seaweed-based products. The "Setia Kawan" group from Pasir Panjang, Kupang City, took the prize in a contest organized by the Marine and Fisheries Agency (DKP) of Nusa Tenggara Timur to mark Indonesia's Independence Day. The group produces shredded fish, jerked fish and fish sticks with the award based upon aspects including the continuity of the production process, quality of products, marketing and packaging.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/Kupang_prize



Cool boxes help Rote Ndao fish traders deliver better quality fish, boost incomes



Fish traders in Rote Ndao District in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province are putting motorcycle cool boxes developed by RFLP to good use. Eighteen sets were handed over to traders in December 2011, with recipients also receiving training on better hygiene and sanitation practices. The fibre glass cool boxes, produced by youths given RFLP/ILO supported vocational training, keep products in better condition and use less ice, allowing traders to deliver better quality fish to distant villages.

"I usually depart from home at 5.00 AM and get back at 11.00 AM. However if need be I can still sell the fish at 2.00 PM as they are usually still in good condition because of the cool box. In addition, I previously spent IDR 10,000 for ice each day, but now I only spend IDR 5,000. So basically I can make more profit," said Paulus Giri, a Rote Ndao fish trader.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/Rote_cool_boxes

RFLP livelihood groups bag awards



Three women's livelihoods groups assisted by RFLP in the Philippines bagged awards from Zamboanga del Norte's provincial government on 7 June 2012 for their contribution to community development through livelihoods diversification. The New Tambo Rural Improvement Club (RIC, Katipunan), Villa Sudiagal RIC Women's Association (Liloy) and the La Concepcion KALUPI Women's Association (Sindangan) were awarded Runner-Up prizes during the 6th Annual 'Search for Hi-Green' which recognizes, amongst others, efforts to increase household income and ensure food security at village level. The three organizations received award certificates with cash prizes worth Php 10,000 (USD 240) each.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/ZDN_awards

Sri Lankan ladies put IT vocational training to use

Young Sri Lankan women who participated in an IT vocational training course supported by RFLP are putting their new skills to use teaching children at schools in fishing communities. The women who took this IT course are from a remote and under-privileged Tamil fishing village named Udappuwa, in Puttalam District. As part of their National Vocational Qualification certificate course all of the participants need to carry out on the job training. Returning to the schools where they once studied as children, the women now deliver the knowledge they have acquired to hundreds of school pupils who previously did not have proper access to IT education.

"Currently we have an IT teacher but unfortunately she cannot communicate in Tamil language as she is Sinhalese. These Tamil IT instructors not only help teaching IT but also bridge the communication gap," said Mr. Sivasubramaniam, vice-principal of Udappuwa Tamil School.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/IT_skills



Engine repair skills benefit Antero



Antero Baptista from Timor-Leste's Atauro Island used to be a fisher but gave up fishing in 2006 when he decided to use his boat to ferry passengers between Atauro and Dili. However, when his outboard engine needed maintenance he would need to take it to a workshop in Dili, which would consume both time and money. In June 2011, Antero participated in basic outboard engine maintenance training conducted by RFLP and a year later, his engine is still in good condition. By maintaining the engine regularly, Antero has been able to save money as he no longer needs to stop working and pay to have his outboard engine fixed in Dili. With the money he has saved, he is able to meet his family needs and has also upgraded his boat.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/antero

Fisheries Societies seek wholesale loans

Eleven Sri Lankan Fisheries Societies, whose micro-finance capacity has been enhanced by RFLP for nearly two years, officially handed over applications for wholesale loans totaling approx USD 113,000 to the Sri Lanka Savings Bank in August marking a giant step in their ability to access funding from larger-scale lenders. Having learnt better financial and organizational management through RFLP and having made considerable progress in their financial performances, these societies are now able to deal with the banks and financial institutions in a formal and professional manner. This highlights their empowerment and enhances their reputation.



"This is a good sign that Fisheries Societies are developing their financial management methods which enhances banks' and other financial institutions' impression of them," said Mr. Priyantha Fernando, Assistant Manager of the Credit Division of the Sri Lanka Savings Bank.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/wholesale_loans

Cambodian fisher communities gain financial literacy skills

Members of 15 Community Fisheries (CFIs) in four coastal provinces in Cambodia have received training from RFLP to help them better manage their household finances and to gain a better understanding micro-finance products and services. The training mainly focused on recording family revenues and expenses, understanding interest charges offered by middle-persons and family financial planning. Participants were introduced to the products and services of micro-finance institutions (MFIs) and banks and also learnt how to compare them to those offered by community-based credit and savings groups.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/Cambodia_finance_training



Kandathoduwawa Fisheries Cooperative Society delivers better micro-finance service

The capacity of Kandathoduwawa Fisheries Cooperative Society located in Sri Lanka's Puttalam district to effectively provide micro-finance services for its members has been enhanced considerably following support provided by RFLP. As a result, the Society has been able to record a 100 percent loan recovery rate for the very first time.

For more information see: www.rflp.org/Kandathoduwawa



Knowledge sharing

RFLP supported the participation of 10 fisheries officials, including three women, from RFLP countries in the 4th Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission Regional Consultative Forum in Danang, Viet Nam from 17-20 September. RFLP staff and counterparts presented their experiences relating to livelihoods and improved fishery resource management to 79 participants from 17 countries and representatives from 12 regional partner organizations and projects.





Thai-language gender manual

A Thai-language version of the RFLP field manual: Mainstreaming gender into project cycle management in the fisheries sector has been produced. The translation was supported by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Download at: www.rflp.org/gender

Video – The invisible woman in small-scale fisheries

As part of the FAO newsflash series Angela Lentisco speaks about the important role women play in small scale fisheries and some of the gender-related activities RFLP is carrying out.

See: www.rflp.org/gender



Resources



Video - Food safety in Quang Nam province (VIETNAMESE)

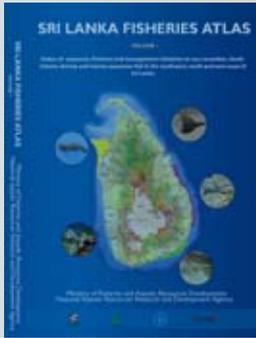
A Vietnamese-language video featuring RFLP's efforts to enhance fisheries-related food safety in inshore fishing communities in Quang Nam province can be found at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2j7IUoCRjss

Other Vietnamese language RFLP video material can also be found at: www.youtube.com/user/RFLPinVIETNNAM?feature=watch

RFLP national newsletters: Bahasa and Khmer

Bahasa and Khmer language newsletters featuring RFLP's activities in Indonesia and Cambodia are available at: www.rflp.org/indonesia and www.rflp.org/cambodia





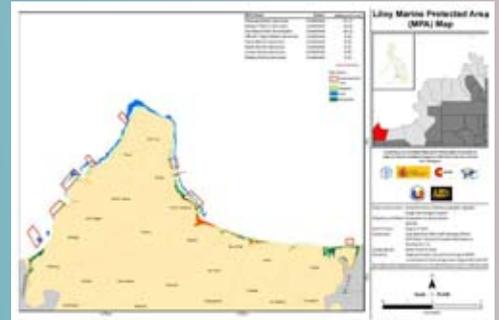
Sri Lankan fisheries atlas

An atlas detailing the status of resources, fisheries and management of sea cucumber, chank, lobster, shrimp and marine aquarium fish on the northwest, south and east coasts of Sri Lanka is available. Contact steve.needham@fao.org for a copy.

Zamboanga del Norte coastal and fisheries resource maps

High resolution maps detailing coastal and fisheries resources such as mangroves, seagrass, MPAs, and fishing structures in 11 Local Government Units in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province have been produced and are also available on the RFLP website.

Download at: www.rflp.org/ZDN_GIS_maps



Anchored FADs for artisanal fisheries

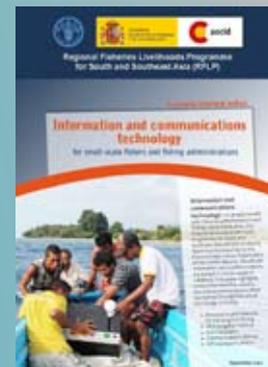
RFLP has supported the production of an FAO advisory note to provide guidance for fisheries managers on the importance of proper planning and implementation of anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) for small-scale fishers.

Download at: www.rflp.org

Information and communications technology for small scale fishers

RFLP has produced a short lessons learned note detailing some of its experiences using information and communications technology such as personal locator beacons for tracking IUU fishing, GPS navigation devices, Echo sounders, communications devices and GPS cameras.

Download at: www.rflp.org

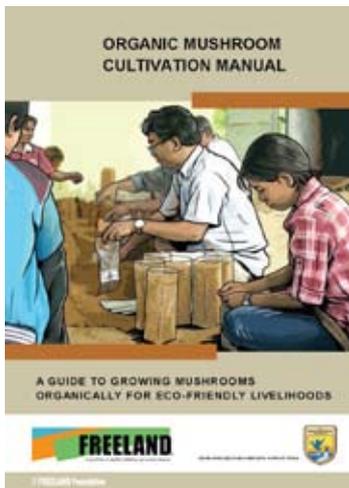


Garmin GPS 72H

RFLP has produced a Sinhala translation of the instructions for the Garmin GPS 72H.

Download at: www.rflp.org/Sri_lanka

Resources we like



Mushroom farming made easy

A clear lesson learned by RFLP has been the demand from coastal communities for non-fisheries related livelihood activities. Mushroom farming can offer a simple way of making a supplementary income and boosting family nutrition. Freeland Foundation has created a simple handbook that can be downloaded at: [www. freeland.org/eng/files/category/3-alternative-livelihood](http://www.freeland.org/eng/files/category/3-alternative-livelihood)

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



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