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Продовольственная и
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

Thirty-sixth Session

[Virtual] Thailand, 5-7 May 2021

Inter-sessional activities of APFIC

1. Since the last APFIC Session held in Cebu, the Philippines, 11–13 May 2018 a range of activities have been carried to implement the APFIC's Programme of Work endorsed by the Thirty fifth Session of the Commission (APFIC/21/INF3) and which align with the endorsed APFIC Strategy (APFIC/21/INF5) and priority areas of work.
2. The inter-sessional activities of APFIC are principally delivered through FAO's field and normative programmes, and through the FAO Regional initiative for Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific, FAO Asia and Pacific Regional One Health Programme and Regional Climate Change Programme.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE COMMISSION'S ROLE

3. The Seventy-seventh Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission was convened in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 5–7 March 2019.
4. The Secretariat supported the preparation of two overviews of issues in fisheries and aquaculture in the APFIC region.

FAO ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON BLUE GROWTH

5. Following recommendations of previous sessions, the FAO Regional initiative on sustainable intensification of aquaculture for blue growth in Asia-Pacific was expanded in scope and coverage to focus more broadly on all aquatic resources related sectors and cover more countries in the implementation. The range of country TCP projects related to the regional initiative indicates how this has been developed during the biennium.

ORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

6. The Secretariat/FAO has independently or jointly organized or supported more than 18 regional and international workshops and a major regional consultative workshop, notable for the participation of APFIC member countries and the excellent partnership with a range of regional fishery organizations, institutions and projects, including:

- Regional consultation on antimicrobial resistance associated with aquaculture in Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, 4-6 September 2018
- Rice Landscapes and Climate Change, 10-12 October 2018, Bangkok, Thailand
- Regional Technical workshop on the use of information communication technologies (ICT) used in small-scale fisheries, Penang, Malaysia, 6-9 November 2018
- Inception workshop of TCP/RAS/3621, Support to countries to address illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, Bangkok, Thailand, 13-15 November 2018
- Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean (with ESCAP), 20 November 2018, Bangkok, Thailand
- Regional workshop on scaling up of innovative rice-fish and climate resilient tilapia farming in Asia-Pacific, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 15-17 January 2019
- Strengthening capacity and cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through sharing of experiences and lessons between Thailand and Cambodia, 2-8 June 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
- FAO/GGGI Workshop on the Best Practices to Prevent and Reduce ALDFG, 8-11 July 2019, Bali Indonesia
- Tenure and user rights: Southeast Asia and Bay of Bengal Regional Workshop, 3-5 September 2019, Bangkok
- Regional Consultation on Strengthen governance of aquaculture for sustainable development in Asia-Pacific and Demographic changes in fishing communities in Asia (with NACA), 5-7 November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
- APFIC Technical webinar series: eight technical webinars covering the APFIC work programme and priority APFIC themes (January 2021-May 2021)

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL BODIES

7. The APFIC Secretariat has actively pursued collaboration with regional and international organizations, providing advisory inputs or acting as technical resource persons to their major events, such as governing council meetings, program steering committee meeting, policy consultation and technical workshops and conferences.

8. The regional and international organizations supported by the Secretariat during the inter-sessional period include NACA, SEAFDEC, MRC, RPOA, COBSEA, WorldFish, PEMSEA, ILO, AIT, USAID:

- Regional Conference “Strengthening resilient food and agriculture systems – Implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Agriculture Sector in Asia and the Pacific”, 15 - 16 March 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
- 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). 25-26 April 2018. Bangkok, Thailand.
- Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-related Issues, 20-22 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand (SEAFDEC)
- Southeast Asia rice-fish systems symposium (RFS), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 6-8 August 2018
- Expert Consultation Workshop on Guidance to Monitoring and Evaluation of Gender Equity and Social Well-being in Fisheries Communities, Bangkok, Thailand, 8-10 August 2018
- 7th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, 18-21 October 2018
- Seventh Meeting of the SEAFDEC Gulf of Thailand Sub-Region Working Group, Chonburi, Thailand, 1-2 November 2018

- 17th Meeting of Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (AGM 17) , Bangkok, Thailand, 13-14 November 2018 (OIE)
- 4th Meeting of the Andaman Sea Sub-region (SEAFDEC), 20-21 November 2018, Bangkok, Thailand
- International Labour Organization “Southeast Asia Conference on Regional Coordination and Action to Combat Trafficking and Labour Exploitation in Fisheries, Bali, Indonesia, 25-30 November 2018
- 25th East Asian Seas Congress, Iloilo City, Philippines, 25-30 November 2018 (PEMSEA)
- Asian Aquaculture Conference, AIT, Thailand, 6-8 January 2019
- International Brackishwater Aquaculture Conference, Chennai, India, 22-24 January 2019
- Fifty-first Meeting of the Council Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), 18-22 March 2019, Surabaya, Indonesia
- Twenty-fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), 19-20 June 2019, Bali, Indonesia
- The Gulf of Thailand Sub-regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network Meeting (SEAFDEC), 20-21 June 2019, Chonburi Province, Thailand
- Experts Consultation Workshop on Finalization of the Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia, 10-11 July 2019 SEAFDEC/TD, Samut Prakan, Thailand
- Forty-second Meeting of the Program Committee, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Chiang Mai, Thailand, 11-13 November 2019
- Regional Workshop on Gender Integration in Fisheries (SEAFDEC and USAID/Oceans), Bangkok, Thailand, January 21-23, 2020
- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA Capacity), [virtual] 8 December 2020

DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES

9. APFIC has provided direct technical assistance and policy advice to members in addressing country and regional level fisheries and aquaculture development issues through technical supervision and backstopping to the implementation of 26 FAO TCP and TCP-F projects and 11 Trust fund supported national and regional projects:

Regional projects

- GCP/RAS/289/GEF “Enabling transboundary cooperation for sustainable management of the Indonesian Seas (ISLME)
- TCP/RAS/3511 “Piloting of aquaculture planning and management tools in selected ASEAN members”
- TCP/RAS/3603 “Support scaling up of innovative agro-aquaculture practices and climate resilient tilapia farming in Asia-Pacific”
- TCP/RAS/3621 Support to countries to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Country projects

- GCP/BGD/055/LDF: Community-based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh

- TCP/BGD/3601 “Technical Support for Stock Assessment of Marine Resources in Bangladesh”
- TCP/BGD/3702 : Technical Assistance to reduce food loss in the capture fisheries supply chain’
- TCP/CMB/3606/C4 “Support to sustainable fisheries including through a modern fisheries law”
- TCP/CMB/3607: Supporting the national technical capacity building for developing shrimp farming sector in Cambodia”
- TCP/CMB/3705: Technical support for institutional and capacity enhancement on gender-sensitive fisheries management and conservation
- GCP/CPR/045/GFF “Demonstration of Estuarine Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Protected Area Networking in China”
- GCP/CPR/043/GFF “Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China's Dongting Lake Protected Areas”
- GCP/DRK/009/ROK-Support Marine and Inland aquaculture in Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
- TCP/DRK/3506 “Strengthening pen and cage fish farming in Integrated Freshwater aquaculture system”
- GCP/INS/303/GFF “Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Inland Fisheries Practices in Freshwater Ecosystems of High Conservation Value (lFish)”
- TCP/INS/3501-03 “Integrated economic zone development based on blue economy in Lombok Island, Indonesia”
- TCP/INS/3502 “Decent Work for Food Security and Sustainable Rural Development (DW4FS&SRD): Support to selected coastal communities along the seaweed value chain”
- TCP/INS/3606: Supporting local feed self-sufficiency for inland aquaculture in Indonesia
- TCP/INS/3603-01” Preparation of full TCP Project supporting local feed self-sufficiency for inland aquaculture development in Indonesia”
- TCP/MAL/3601/C1 “Support to combatting IUU and implementing FAO PSMA in Malaysia”
- TCP/MDV/3501-01 “Assistance in support of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Maldives”
- TCP/MDV/3603/C3, Development of a National Plan of Action to Combat IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU)
- GCP/MYA/020/LDF “FishAdapt: Strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture –dependent livelihoods in Myanmar”
- TCP/MYA/3601 “Improvement of data collection on fisheries and aquaculture production: pilot system for the Yangon Region”
- TCP/MYA/3606 “Improvement of tilapia seed production and grow-out culture management in Myanmar”
- TCP/PAK/3502 “Promotion of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) in farming of carps and other potential finfish in Punjab and Balochistan Provinces”
- UNJP/PHI/066/UNJ “Restoring fisheries livelihoods in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao”
- TCP/PHI/3606/C2: Supporting Aquaculture Resources Mapping and Development Planning Through ICT-based Solutions

- GCP/SRL/062/EC “Poverty Reduction through Agricultural Development” (covering inland fisheries and aquaculture)
- GCP/SRL/071/CAN Capacity Enhancement of NARA for marine resource surveys and stock assessments in coastal waters of Sri Lanka: Phase II : Implementation of fisheries co-management plans
- TCP/SRL/3502 “Improving seabass (*Lates calcarifer*) aquaculture in Sri Lanka through better feed and health management”
- TCP/SRL/3503-03 “Technical Assistance on human resource capacity building related to fish genetics and brood stock management in Sri Lanka”
- TCP/SRL/3503-04 “Development of strategy for aquaculture value chain development for improved income generation of small aquaculture and fish supply to consumers”
- TCP/SRL/3503-06 “Inter-laboratory proficiency test (ring test) for detection of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) by PCR in Sri Lanka”
- TCP/SRL/3603 Capacity Building to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing)
- TCP/SRL/3602/C2 TCPF “Support in establishing a Technical Cooperation Project to combat IUU fishing in Sri Lanka”
- TCP/TIM/3502-04 “Feasibility study and pilot culture production of marine finfish cage culture (grouper, snapper) in Timor Leste”
- TCP/VIE/3502-04 “Assessment of causes and impacts of failed intensive shrimp farming on livelihoods of small farmers and piloting sustainable shrimp farming through organic farming supported with rehabilitation of destroyed mangroves in provinces of Soc Trang and Bac Lieu, Viet Nam”
- FAO/MDF/VIE: Promote of Scaling up of integrated mangrove-shrimp farming system in Vietnam

NEW REGIONAL AND COUNTRY PROJECTS APPROVED THAT SUPPORT THE WORK AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION

10. Project develop which directly support the priority work of the Commission include 9 new regional and national GCP/TCP projects which have been formulated and approved with the support of the Secretariat.

11. Those projects most recently approved or initiated include:

- GCP/MYA/026/GFF (PPG) “My-Coast: Ecosystem-Based Conservation of Myanmar’s Southern Zone”
- GCP /CMB/037/LDF “Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Cambodia’s Coastal Fishery Communities”
- GCP /TIM/011/LDF and GCP/TIM/009 IKAN Adapt: Strengthening the adaptive capacity, resilience and biodiversity conservation ability of fisheries and aquaculture-dependent livelihoods in Timor-Leste
- TCP/RAS/3702 “Support mitigation of antimicrobial resistance associated with aquaculture in Asia
- Gulf of Thailand Fishery Management (GOTFISH) Project Identification Form (GEF)
- GCP /RAS/304/GFF (645046), Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem(BOBLME)- II SAP Implementation (PPG)
- GCP/CMB/043/EC FAO Complementary Support to the Cambodia Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in the Fisheries Sector: Capture component (CAPFISH Capture)

- UNJP/PNG/010/EC Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea (STREIT PNG)

APFIC PUBLICATIONS AND INTERNET-BASED INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

12. The Secretariat maintains the APFIC website <http://www.fao.org/apfic/en/>, and the 77th Executive Committee has requested the Secretariat to update links and APFIC material. The website has been updated and slightly reorganized.

13. The Secretariat produced 3 publications/draft publications on APFIC meeting events and technical subjects, which include:

- Sustainable Development for Resilient Blue Growth of Fisheries and Aquaculture: Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting, Cebu, Philippines, 7–9 May 2018
- Report on the 77th APFIC Executive Committee Meeting, Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 5 to 7 March 2019
- Regional overview of fishery and aquaculture issues in the Asia-Pacific Region (information papers)

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14. The Commission is invited to review and comment on the inter-sessional activities carried out by the Secretariat.

15. The Commission is welcome to identify obvious gaps that should be highlighted for increasing efforts by the Secretariat and the member countries.