



SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF FAO'S PORT STATE MEASURES AGREEMENT IN COLOMBIA AND PANAMA

National and regional efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks are undermined by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which consequently inhibits progress towards the sustainability in the fisheries sector that is aimed for under SDG 14 (Life below water). To fight, deter and ultimately end this type of fishing, an international framework made up of a series of instruments and tools has been developed. The most important of these is the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). This Project, which was designed to support FAO's Global Programme on the implementation of the PSMA, aimed to improve the capacity of fisheries sector stakeholders in Colombia and Panama to effectively implement port state measures (PSMs) as well as other complementary measures and tools, and to carry out monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) operations to combat IUU fishing.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The Project succeeded in equipping Colombia and Panama with strategies, policies and laws to implement the provisions of the PSMA and its complementary international instruments, in addition to improving organizational and operational MCS capacities in both countries.

The Fifth Meeting of the Global Record Information Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG) was held, and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) was launched. The Project aimed to have 61 countries uploading data into the Global Record by its end; however, this target was surpassed, as a total of 66 countries were doing so by the Project's end.

The Global Capacity Development Portal (GCDP) to combat IUU fishing was launched and promoted through webinars and the dissemination of knowledge products, including two brochures, a tutorial and a video. The Project contributed to the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the PSMA Global Programme. The framework has been applied regularly throughout the Programme since its establishment. It is utilized to report on the results of the Programme to resource partners, Parties to the PSMA and other relevant stakeholders.

Overall, the Project increased the legal and operational capacities to combat IUU fishing in the participating countries. It is expected that the Global Record and the GCDP will continue to amplify the results achieved beyond the Project's end date.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 824 445

Duration

February 2019–October 2022

Resource Partner

The European Union

Partners

Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Colombia (AUNAP)

Beneficiaries

National fisheries authorities of Colombia and Panama

IMPACT

By improving the national policy and legal environment and the capacities of the national fisheries authorities of Colombia and Panama to effectively implement PSMs and complementary MCS operations, measures and tools, the results of the Project are expected to increase the sustainability of marine fisheries by preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.



ACTIVITIES

- Strategies and action plans were formulated to review and align national policies, legislation and MCS systems and operations to the provisions of the PSMA, as well as to complementary MCS operations, measures and tools.
- Capacity building and International Technical Assistance (ITA) was provided to support the review, adoption and/or strengthening of policy and legislation measures consistent with the provisions of the PSMA.
- ITA also was provided: (i) to assist in the redesign of MCS systems that are compatible with regional and international standards and requirements; (ii) to improve catch documentation and traceability schemes; and (iii) to improve flag State performance (including the registration of vessels).
- Training on effectively enforcing administrative sanctions and prosecution against people or entities engaged in IUU fishing was carried out for public officials.
- Capacity development activities on fisheries inspections, including enforcement training and interagency cooperation at a domestic level were held for national authorities and institutions.
- Activities to support increased transparency and traceability in the fisheries sector were carried out.
- Support was provided for the development of guidelines and rules for the implementation of the Global Record.
- The second version of the Global Record was developed and launched.
- Knowledge management activities involving the GCDP website were carried out.
- The Project's visibility was raised through the development and publication of articles, press releases, videos, social media posts, webinars and information products.



Project Title

Project to Support FAO's PSMA Global Capacity Development Programme

Project Code

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