



MINISTERIO  
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES  
Y DE COOPERACIÓN



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

### Highlights

#### RFLP joins Cambodian National Fish Day 2011

RFLP supported Cambodia's National Fish Day celebrations in Svay Rieng Province 1 July. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen was joined by senior government figures, members of the international community as well as some 3,000 local people to release lobsters, prawn seed and fish into the Vaiko River and took time to stop and study information about RFLP activities.



Prime Minister Hun Sen (right) studies the RFLP booth

### Can coastal communities turn mangroves to money?

RFLP has produced a report investigating the possibility of generating income from mangroves through carbon credit sales and payments for environmental services as an alternative livelihood option for fishers and their families.

The report examines the role of mangroves in sequestering carbon as well as the potential application of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) mechanism to generate income for coastal communities. It suggests that the sale of carbon credits is not a practical course of action to follow in providing alternative means of livelihood support to fisher communities. Key findings highlight the lack of well fitting methodologies, the need to provide communities income within a short time frame and economies of scale. However the report does suggest that a simplified mechanism allowing corporate investors to support mangrove conservation, carbon emissions reduction and sustainable development through the provision of funding to local communities may be possible.

The full report and a two page summary can be downloaded at [http://www.rflp.org/Mangroves\\_to\\_money](http://www.rflp.org/Mangroves_to_money)

### RFLP supports integration of fisheries into climate change planning

RFLP supported the participation of the lead national agencies for climate change from the RFLP countries in the Asia Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) regional workshop on "Implications of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture: challenges for adaptation and mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Region" in Kathmandu, Nepal, 24-28 May 2011. The workshop saw 50 participants from APFIC member countries and various organizations analyze potential impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture as well as review their national policies and actions relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.



*Naderev M. Saño, Commissioner of the Philippines climate Change Commission said, "The APFIC workshop was very valuable in terms of bridging the fisheries sector with climate change. It highlighted the important aspects of threats, opportunities, gaps and issues, and the urgency for action."*

More information and the summary recommendations can be found at [www.apfic.org](http://www.apfic.org)

## RFLP supports ministerial aquaculture meet

RFLP supported the participation of senior level officials from the six RFLP countries in the Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting on Aquaculture for Food Security, Nutrition and Economic Development held in Colombo, Sri Lanka 28-29 July 2011.

*"Small scale aquaculture offers both food security and livelihoods options for the coastal communities RFLP works with. It is important that this contribution is fully recognized in regional level policies concerning the sector," Jose Parajua, RFLP Regional Programme Manager.*



## Co-management

### Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project joins RFLP to conserve Zamboanga sardines

RFLP and the UNDP-GEF Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project will work together to conserve sardine fisheries in the East Sulu Sea, the prime source of livelihoods for thousands of fishers in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province.

The Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project will carry out a number of measures to support the Sardines Fishery Improvement Action Plan formulated by RFLP. It will assist RFLP to gather data and identify actual spawning grounds and larval dispersal of sardines in the province. Furthermore, the projects will work together to raise awareness about sardine fisheries in view of likely seasonal closures being imposed for the protection and conservation of sardines in East Sulu Sea.



### Community Fishing Area Management Plans signed in Cambodia



Resource management and community development in Cambodian coastal fishing communities will be strengthened following the signing of 15 Community Fishing Area Management Plans at a ceremony in Preah Sihanouk on 11 May 2011. The Plans were developed through a participatory process supported by the Fisheries Administration and the RFLP. The active participation of community members in their development and implementation marks an important step in the empowerment of communities to manage their resources.

*"These Community Fishing Area Management Plans reflect the importance of ensuring fisheries resources are jointly and sustainably managed by the communities and administration as well as the need to fully integrate all aspects of community life into the planning process."* Jose Parajua, Regional Programme Manager of RFLP

## Cambodian officials learn resource survey skills

RFLP has provided training in marine survey techniques for Cambodian Fisheries Administration (FiA) officials to help ensure better monitoring of marine resources in Community Fisheries. The eight-day course was held in Koh Rong Samloem 23-30 May 2011 and covered marine survey techniques as well as baseline surveys upon which to base marine resources monitoring programmes at selected Community Fisheries.



*"This training is very important for the Conservation Department and Coastal Cantonments. We hope that by gaining experience in conducting marine surveys, it will give us more confidence to improve conservation work in Cambodia."* Mr. Ouk Vibol, Deputy Director of the Department of Fisheries Conservation

## Philippine fishers and local governments study Coastal Resource and Fisheries Management

Training courses held by RFLP during March and April set out to enhance the capacities of local governments and community fishers in the Philippines in coastal resource and fisheries management. Issues covered included Coastal and Fisheries Resource Management; enforcement; establishment and management of marine protected areas as well as monitoring and evaluation.



*"This programme will push local governments and fishers to find effective actions to many of the problems and frustrations that coastal communities confront day by day,"* Municipal Agriculturist Saturnina Jamisola of Liloy town.

## Hanging on for Savu Sea reefs



Training organized by RFLP and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recently saw 27 community control group members, district and provincial fisheries and marine affairs (DKP) staff from Kupang in Indonesia's NTT province learn to use the manta tow method to monitor coral reefs.

RFLP and TNC's Savu Sea project are working together to improve the capacity of community groups to monitor marine resources in the Savu Sea Marine National Park. The manta Tow technique sees a person towed behind a boat for a short distance to observe and record marine resources. It is considered effective for community-based coral reef monitoring.

## Sardine conservation messages promoted at Tuloy Festival

RFLP took part in the Tuloy (sardine) Festival held recently in Sicayab-Bucana village, Dapitan City. Tuloy are the raw material for bottled sardines which is one of the major income earners of the province. RFLP supported the event by distributing T-shirts with messages about sardines conservation.



*"We have to seriously work for the protection and conservation of our sardine resources and its habitats. Only then we can be assured of its continuous supply of this raw material which provides livelihoods for thousands of coastal dwellers,"* Benjamin Francisco RFLP National Coordinator, in the Philippines

## Officials and fishers benefit from safety-at-sea training in the Philippines

Vulnerability of fishers in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province has been reduced following safety at sea training delivered by the Philippine Coast Guard for RFLP. The training covered a wide range of areas including simple map/chart reading; the movement of vessels during heavy weather; basic rescue and life-saving techniques; survival at sea; and actual life-saving simulations.



*"Local governments and other duty-bearers lack the knowledge and skill in the conduct of search and rescue operations, and survival-at-sea when accidents happen. Hence, we designed this training program to enhance the skills and capabilities of village leaders, fishers, and government agencies." RFLP Safety-at-Sea National Consultant Retired Captain Henry Caballero of the Philippine Coast Guard.*

## Zamboanga del Norte small-scale boat builders form association



Thirty small-scale boat builders, carpenters and fisher leaders across the 12 municipalities and cities covered by RFLP in the Philippines completed a Boat Building Training Course held on May 30-31. In addition, the 30 participants agreed to form the Small Boat Builders Association of Zamboanga del Norte to help improve the competence of small boat builders as well as boost the relationship among members and fishers in the community.

*"This is the first time I have attended training on boat-building in my entire life as small boat-builder. I am very happy the local government invited me to come here." Paulino Antipaso, of Leon Postigo town.*

## Timor Leste fishers and government staff learn outboard engine maintenance skills

In order to improve safety at sea and reduce vulnerability for fisher communities in Timor Leste, the RFLP's Teresa Nao has conducted training on basic maintenance and repair of outboard engines. Participants included fishers as well as staff from the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (N DFA) who will also receive further capacity building training in order to operate a nationwide mobile workshop to disseminate the knowledge acquired from the RFLP safety at sea program.

*"I am very interested in this training because it really helps me know how to repair and maintain engines. My boat engine has been broken for years and I just left it like that because I did not know how or where to fix it." Mr. Eduardo da Silva a training participant from Vemasse Sub-District*



## Post harvest

### Timor Leste fishers to form National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives

Timor Leste fishers meeting at an RFLP-supported Fisheries Cooperatives Workshop held recently have decided to create a National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives to help them better claim their rights, gain access to services as well as boost incomes through enhanced market access. Held in Dili 25 May, the workshop brought together representatives of fishing cooperatives from across the country with staff from various government institutions.

Difficulties faced by district-level cooperatives highlighted at the workshop included communication with consumers and government organisations as well as influence over markets and access to information.

The planned creation of a National Federation of Cooperatives was seen as the most effective means of addressing these common difficulties.

Another workshop will be held in coming months to create a road map for the creation of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives while a taskforce will also be established to oversee the process.

During the workshop, Ms Alsina Fernandes from the Department of Processing also took advantage of the presence of the fishers to brief them on the basic hygiene principles that they must apply when working with fishery products. Ms Fernandes had been previously trained by the RFLP in this area.

*"The workshop was useful in terms of examining the strengths and weaknesses of current fisheries cooperatives in Timor-Leste and the ways to move forward. One of the workshop results was the recognition of the need to establish a federation of fisheries cooperatives, which will provide a stronger platform for marketing and gaining access to government services."* RFLP's Abrani Manuel

### Meet the champions! Products offering best value potential picked in the Philippines



Fresh yellow fin tuna, vacuum-packed dried tuloy (sardines), anchovy paste and bottled Spanish sardines; these were the four products picked by local stakeholders from the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province as champion commodities for RFLP assistance in a recent value chain workshop held at the Dipolog School of Fisheries in Dipolog City June 15-16, 2011. The workshop saw 65 participants from community women's associations; local government units and bottled sardine processors collectively analyze their current fishery conditions using the value/supply chain approach.

*"We want participants to appreciate Value Chain Analysis as a practical tool to help them identify bottlenecks and problems across the 'catch-to-customer' chain of fish and fishery products."* RFLP's Jonelo Sobreguel.

### Over 900 Cambodian fishers and vendors trained in hygienic fish processing

RFLP has trained over 900 Cambodian fishers, vendors, processors and traders including more than 500 women to better apply good hygiene and sanitation measures to fisheries products as well as improved processing technology in order to boost both incomes as well as consumer health. The specific objectives of the training were to improve the knowledge of participants regarding the importance of food hazards and food safety in all stages of the fish processing chain.



*"This training is very important for my community members they now know how best to handle and chill the fish after it has been caught until it is sold so that they can reduce the loss of catch due to bad handling."* Koem Khan, Chief of O'krasa Community Fishery.

## Alternative livelihoods

### Alternative livelihoods activities chosen in Cambodia

Chicken raising, rice banks, mangrove re-planting and eco tourism were amongst livelihood diversification options selected by Cambodian Community Fisheries (CFis) that RFLP is to support. A workshop held 4 July in Sihanoukville saw 65 CFi members, local authorities and Fisheries Administration representatives discuss the merits of various options identified in a livelihoods feasibility study carried out by RFLP. RFLP will support livelihoods activities in six of the CFis by providing training and helping launch a number of pilot activities.

*"We are making sure that any activity chosen reflects the needs and aspirations of the CFi." Pen Ngyrithy, Secretary of CFi O'krasa*

### Sri Lankan livelihoods experiences shared

A stakeholder experience sharing workshop on livelihoods development took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka 5-6 April. The event brought together those involved in past and ongoing livelihoods projects as well as other key policy makers, and researchers involved in livelihoods development. The key strengths and weaknesses of the livelihood planning processes and implementation methodologies were evaluated and a set of guidelines developed for future livelihood development initiatives in the RFLP area with special emphasis on sustainability.

### Young entrepreneurs trained in Indonesia

Young school drop outs in Indonesia's Kupang Municipality and District demonstrated their desire to improve their livelihoods recently when they took part in entrepreneurship training organised by RFLP in collaboration with the ILO East Project. The training was conducted by those previously trained by RFLP and ILO East. In all 33, young people from coastal communities took part and learned how to develop business ideas with a view to starting up their own small enterprise.



*"I never imagined I could participate in this training. It has widened my horizons and shown me how to create ideas as well as make a good business plan. I now feel confident that I can run a business of my own one day." Syalomi Sally A. Rihy, one of the trainees.*

## Microfinance

### Financial literacy training for fishers

RFLP teamed up with the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) 27-29 June to provide financial literacy training to microfinance consultants from the RFLP countries. Financial literacy training has emerged as a key need for communities in the areas RFLP operates, specifically the need for training in basic numeracy and savings.

ACCU has already developed '360 degree financial literacy training materials' and worked with the RFLP consultants to help adapt them for RFLP communities. The



training sought to train the consultants so that they are able to pass on the training to trainers as well as beneficiaries in their home countries.

More information about RFLP's microfinance activities can be found at [www.rflp.org/access\\_to\\_micro\\_finance](http://www.rflp.org/access_to_micro_finance)

*"Financial management of fishers is often very poor. They do not know how to use money and any money they receive they spend. This is their culture. But we can change this culture through training." Mr. Sextus Dayananda, RFLP microfinance consultant in Sri Lanka.*

## Gender

### Mainstreaming gender in fisheries in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam

RFLP has held training in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam to help create better awareness and understanding of gender concepts and how they can be incorporated into coastal resource and fisheries management planning as well as development initiatives targeting small-scale fishers. A wide range of participants took part in the three countries including national and provincial officials as well as fishers and women's group leaders.

*"The training will help officials become more aware of gender issues in the communities they work with as well as to provide training to fisher communities in the RFLP implementation area." RFLP's Angela Lentisco*

## Viet Nam baseline survey results available

The RFLP baseline survey results for Viet Nam (Quang Tri, Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue province) are available in both English and Vietnamese. To download see: [www.rflp.org/vietnam](http://www.rflp.org/vietnam)



## Biogas offers benefits to Vietnamese coastal communities

RFLP has supported an assessment of the technical and economic feasibility of small-scale integrated aquaculture, animal husbandry and biogas systems in coastal communities in Viet Nam's Quang Tri province. The report provides an evaluation and analysis of current status and potential of small scale integrated farming system in coastal areas of the province.

For more information and to download see: [www.rflp.org/vietnam](http://www.rflp.org/vietnam)



## RFLP highlights benefits of fish in diet in Nusa Tenggara Timur

RFLP Indonesia supported the "Gemar Makan Ikan" or "Eating Fish" campaign organised by the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Department (DKP) in April in an effort to increase public awareness in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province about the benefits of eating fish. RFLP supported the production of visibility and information items such as a booklet giving various fish recipes and a leaflet highlighting the benefits of eating fish.

For more information and to download see: <http://www.rflp.org/indonesia>



## Raising awareness of the Savu Sea

RFLP has contributed to the production of a series of Bahasa-language information materials that raise awareness of the importance of Indonesia's Savu Sea. If it can be protected effectively, the Savu Sea can become a sanctuary to sea life and productive fishery resources. The materials include a map and poster as well as information and fact sheets which will be widely distributed at local and national level.

For more information and to download see: [http://www.rflp.org/Savu\\_sea\\_information\\_materials](http://www.rflp.org/Savu_sea_information_materials)



## Regional

RFLP is discussing with Mangroves for the Future to develop a mechanism enabling corporate investors to responsibly **promote mangrove conservation**, carbon emissions reduction and sustainable development through the provision of funding to local communities. Meanwhile, RFLP continues to explore the possibility of launching a **recognition scheme for well managed small scale fisheries**. The concept is being presented to fisheries administrations in the RFLP countries and potential fisheries are being sought in which to pilot the scheme.

## Sri Lanka

**Mangrove management plans** for Negombo, Chilaw and Puttalam lagoons will be developed and activities will continue to clear Negombo lagoon waterways of sunken wrecks. Post harvest activities will focus on the use of **ice on board**, the introduction of **proper handling practices** and **training for dry fish producers**. The Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka will conduct **skills development programs** for 120 young people while **home gardening and livestock development** opportunities will be explored.



## Philippines

**Surveys and assessment of coastal habitats** in the municipal waters of 10 municipalities and 2 cities covered by RFLP will take place. The information will eventually be produced in digitized maps showing **coastal habitat distribution and location of significant fisheries resources**. An assessment has been made on the feasibility of establishing a lighthouse on Lamboyan Point, Sindangan Bay. RFLP is also discussing with the Microfinance Council of the Philippines to mobilize microfinance in RFLP project areas to support livelihoods diversification.



## Timor Leste

A proposal to donors for the expansion of the **ice distribution pilot activity** has been prepared. Support is being provided to the **government licensing and boat marking system** as well as a **census of fishers and boats**. The 2nd phase of a mission by TRAGSA to create a **Human Resources Development Plan** is underway and the development of a **strategic aquaculture plan** by World Fish is continuing. A **mobile engine repair workshop** for fishers will also be launched.



## Cambodia

Training on **construction of improved 12-metre tradition wooden fishing boats** will take place in August and a video made to document the process. A **crab bank** will be developed in community fisheries and members trained. **Local business groups** will be officially formed training and equipment provided for livelihoods activities selected by communities.



## Indonesia



Activities will take place to support **food security for coastal households** while a pilot MPA will be established in Kupang district. A pilot activity is planned to **improve the fish landing site** of Oeba in Kupang. Collaboration is also

being discussed with UNICEF and WFP to educate and engage coastal communities with regards to **habitat restoration** including mangrove rehabilitation and **coral reef preservation**.

## Viet Nam

**Provincial Fisheries Associations** are in the process of being established while activities will also take place to raise community awareness of **prohibited fishing gears**. The collection and analysis of data on **accidents at sea** and their causes will continue and a **fishing capacity survey** will be conducted. A pilot alternative livelihood model will also be launched based on **scad drying**.





## RFLP meets Cambodian Club of Journalists

On 6 July RFLP teamed up with the Fisheries Administration and Cambodian Club of Journalists for a round table discussion on “Coastal Fishing: How to empower the community to tackle challenges.” The event gave some 60 members of the Cambodian media the chance to learn more about challenges facing coastal fishing communities and the activities of the RFLP.



## Beach clean up marks World Environment Day in Sri Lanka



RFLP celebrated World Environment Day 2011 by conducting a Beach Clean-up Campaign at Negomb Beach Park on 7 June. The event saw the participation of students and teachers from Negombo South International School as well as representatives from the government and non-governmental sector. In addition to celebrating World Environment Day the event also helped raise awareness amongst the school children on the importance of protecting the environment.

## Life on the Edge: Cambodia Coastal Fishing Communities

To celebrate National Fish Day on July 1st, British photographer Dylan Walker, in collaboration with the RFLP held a documentary photography exhibition entitled ‘Life on the Edge: Cambodian Coastal Fishing Communities’. The exhibition featured images taken in the Cambodian coastal fishing communities in which RFLP operates. The opening took place at Phnom Penh’s Foreign Correspondents Club and was attended by a large number of locals as well as members of the international community.



### 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](mailto:steve.needham@fao.org)