



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
Y DE COOPERACIÓN



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

Highlight

Timor-Leste completes first national census of fishing boats

Timor-Leste has completed its first ever national census of fishing vessels, an achievement which will greatly facilitate the sustainable management of the nation's fisheries resources.

Between October 2011 and October 2012, a Mobile Licensing Service visited 192 fishing centers in all 11 districts throughout the country. There they gathered information on almost every fishing boat currently operative in the country.



"A total of 3,113 boats were registered during the process, of which 1,330 were issued licenses."

Information on all the boats registered and licensed has been entered into a publicly accessible online system (www.peskador.org) where it forms a national census of fishing effort.

Under Timor-Leste's fishing law certain fishing boats (those with engines) are required to obtain a license. However the process to obtain one was complex, time consuming and expensive. As a result, prior to the census only eight vessels were licensed.

In response, the NDFA, with support from RFLP, decided to form a mobile licensing team in order to make the procedure simpler, by providing a one-stop service much needed by fishers.

When the mobile teams visited the fishing centres, they helped every fisher with a boat to fill out a form detailing basic characteristics such as the owner/operator's name, vessel length, year built, type/materials, fishing techniques used etc. A registration number was then marked on every boat: spray painted for non-motorized vessels and with an acrylic plate for motorized boats. A photo of the boat and owner was also taken with a geo-referenced enabled camera, making sure that the registration number was clearly visible.

The photographs of boats/owners were then uploaded into Google Earth, so that their exact location can be recorded and seen. This information has already proven valuable in search and rescue operations for missing fishers.

For more see: http://www.rflp.org/timor_lete_census
or www.peskador.org

Mr. Lourenco dos Reis Amaral, the Chief of the NDFA's Department of Fisheries Inspection said, "This is a major achievement for Timor-Leste. By facilitating a simpler and more effective process we now know how many fishing boats we have, where they are based and the type of fishing gear they use. This data will greatly facilitate better planning and management for the sustainable use of Timor-Leste's fisheries. At the same time by visiting communities, the mobile licensing team has also helped build better relationships between the authorities and fishers."

'Tara Bandu' laws show their teeth in Timor Leste

A Timor-Leste coastal community that worked with RFLP to formalize its traditional 'Tara Bandu' laws governing natural resources has put them to use after a protected tree was burned down.

Proving that the *Tara Bandu* is no empty threat, local authorities and the Beacou community held a traditional ceremony on 20 October 2012 to impose sanctions against five Beacou residents who had violated the *Tara Bandu* law by burning down a protected tree whilst they were drunk.

"This is the first time we have enforced *Tara Bandu* by penalizing those who damage protected natural resources. Previously we only penalized those who damaged sacred places. Since we documented the *Tara Bandu* the community has started to recognize *Tara Bandu* law in earnest," said Sergio Pedroco, chief of Beacou sub-village.

For more see: www.rflp.org/tara_bandu_example



The sanction for violating Tara Bandu includes paying a fine as well as providing food and drink to be shared by the community

Destructive fishing gear goes up in flames in Viet Nam



A total of 52 sets of illegal Chinese box-like traps known as *lu* were burnt during a Fisheries Festival at Loc Binh Commune, Phu Loc District 21 September 2012.

Destruction of the *lu* marks a major achievement for local Fisheries Associations which have been supported by RFLP and are now regularly patrolling protected fishery areas.

The burning of these fishing gears in this kind of festival was symbolic of people's commitment to better preservation and management of lagoon resources. According to RFLP's Mr. Luong Quang Doc "There is no precedent for burning fishing gear at a Fisheries Festival. Today, the whole community and the authorities were united in their effort to reduce harmful fishing practices."

Illegal *lu* traps are put to the torch For more see: www.rflp.org/Vietnam_lu

RFLP supports amendments to Sri Lanka Fisheries Act

A high-powered committee appointed by the Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development in Sri Lanka has made amendments to the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No.2 of 1996. The changes will support co-management activities while also helping ensure women's participation in these processes. RFLP facilitated the work of this Committee and also provided the services of a former legal draftsman to draft the necessary amendments.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Sri_Lanka_fisheries_act



Safety at sea



Diver lives to tell his tale

As part of its actions to reduce vulnerability at sea, RFLP provided basic safety training for divers in Sri Lanka who gather various marine resources for sale. One of the divers, W. M. Chaminda Sugath put these skills to use recently when he was lost at sea and survived to tell his story.

For more see: www.rflp.org/divers_story

Beach trolleys take the strain in Viet Nam

Beach trolleys provided to a community in Viet Nam's Quang Tri Province are helping get their boats out of the water far more easily than before. This not only helps fishers after a long day at sea but will also ensure that the community can get boats out of the water and to safely quickly when typhoons strike.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Beach_trolleys



Indonesian national branding programme includes RFLP supported product



'Mama Fons' with her products at the Indonesia Fisheries Expo 2012 in Jakarta.

A seaweed snack developed with RFLP support in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province was one of the products included in the official launch of a national branding programme for fisheries products recently.

The Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Mr. Sharif C. Sutardjo launched the 'national branding programme for fisheries products' at the Indonesia Fisheries Expo (IFE) 2012, held in Jakarta in October.

Amongst the products selected was the seaweed pillus (a crunchy seaweed snack) made by NTT's 'Mama Fons' who has worked closely with RFLP to develop her product. This will be sold under a new brand named 'Freeze and Fresh' and is set to join other leading products from around Indonesia on the shelves of national supermarket chains Alfamart and Alfamidi.

For more see: www.rflp.org/fresh_and_freeze

First fish auction sessions piloted in Thua Thien Hue province

In November, five pilot auctions were held at Thuan An Fishing Port, Thua Thien Hue province following support from RFLP. This marks the first time such an initiative has been conducted in coastal central Viet Nam.

The auctions are expected to enhance transparency in fish trading by reflecting real costs and prices along the supply chain and helping diversify how fishers can sell their catches in addition to the current channels.

Mr. Tran Van Tho, one of the small traders at the fishing port, said about the trial auction, "This is very new so to be honest, we were a bit confused at first. However, during the sessions, we gradually saw a lot of potential benefits from this model."

For more see: www.rflp.org/vietnam



The pilot auction in action



Inspection capacity boosted in Cambodia

RFLP has helped boost the capacity of government staff in Cambodia to inspect the quality of fisheries products. Officials from the Fisheries Administration (FiA), coastal FiA Cantonments and Marine Fisheries Administration Inspectorate received training in fisheries product sampling methodologies and inspection techniques during September.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Cambodia_inspection

Indonesian processors gain Halal Certification

Market opportunities for food processors Supported by RFLP in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province have increased following acquisition of Halal certification. RFLP helped processors establish contact with the Halal authority and provided basic awareness and knowledge about Halal Certification. RFLP also provided assistance to the Halal inspectors to visit processors and make their assessment that saw four out of the five inspected establishments successfully certified.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Indonesia_halal



Sardine bottler puts post harvest skills to use

A small-scale processor of bottled sardines in the Philippines has put to use post harvest skills learned from RFLP to improve her production processes and facilities. Dapitan City sardine processor Jocelyn Gaso has created a more hygienic processing space, whilst she is also ensuring her staff strictly follow a more effective sanitation regime.

For more see: www.rflp.org/Philippines_sardine_production

Fishing community turns to coconuts



Community members get production underway

A coconut oil production facility operated by the fishing community of Sinnapaduwa in Sri Lanka's Puttalam district opened in November. Comprising 11 women and three men, Shwashakthi Coconut Oil Producing Enterprise was formed as part of RFLP's micro-enterprise development programme. Drawing on the vast supply of coconuts in the area the micro-enterprise helps diversify the livelihoods of this community which previously depended solely on fishing.

One of the group members, Mrs Patima Chandane expressed her satisfaction, "Formerly I worked doing small sewing jobs. I am very happy now and have had a lot of training. I will use any income I make to complete the construction of my house."

For more see: www.rflp.org/Sri_Lanka_coconuts

Sri Lankan youth trained in engine repair

An RFLP-funded, outboard engine repair training course for 12 fisher youth was launched at the National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering (NIFNE), in Negombo in October. The three-month residential course was organized in response to the severe lack of boat engine repair skills and engine repair shops in the Puttalam area. It is planned that the participants will go on to establish their own engine repair workshops following the training.

For more see: www.rflp.org/engine_repair_course



Trainees with basic repair equipment provided by RFLP

Knowledge sharing

Lessons learned and best practices: co-management



RFLP teams and national government counterparts came together in December to share experiences and lessons learned on co-management activities. Copies of presentations and other materials are available at www.rflp.org/co_management

Programme Steering Committee

RFLP held its 4th Programme Steering Committee in Bangkok 11 December. A presentation on RFLP progress in 2012 and the meeting report can be found at www.rflp.org/PSC

Anchored fish aggregating devices for artisanal fisheries in South and Southeast Asia: benefits and risks

This report provides detailed analyses of the benefits, risks and threats related to the implementation of FAD programmes and specifically for artisanal anchored FADs for artisanal fisheries in South and Southeast Asia.

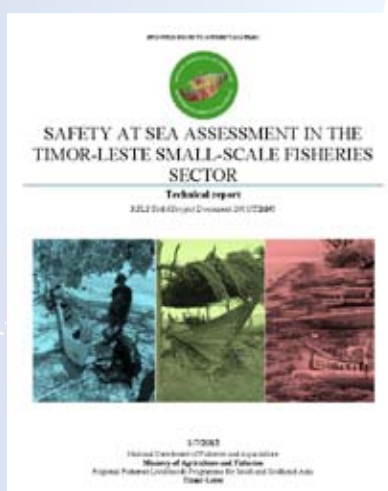
Download at: www.rflp.org/FADS



Safety at sea assessment in the Timor-Leste small-scale fisheries sector

This report contains an assessment of certain safety-related issues in Timor-Leste's small-scale fishing sector. Based on RFLP experience and the current data available on the fisheries sector in the country, the report is intended to provide a set of recommendations for the further development of national policy and legal frameworks to enhance the safety of small-scale fishers.

Download at: www.rflp.org/safety_at_sea



Forming village regulations (Bahasa)

An entire issue of 'Lentera' the magazine of the Indonesian NGO the Lendola Foundation was dedicated to the drafting and approval of village regulations to help govern coastal resources. Lendola and RFLP have worked together to create such regulations in a number of villages in NTT province.

The magazine is a valuable resource for any other Indonesian community, NGO or government department considering developing village regulations for marine resource management purposes. The magazine is in Bahasa language.

Download at: www.rflp.org/indonesia



Protected species (Vietnamese)

A flyer giving information for fishers in Viet Nam's Thua Thien Hue province about protected species has been created.

Download at: www.rflp.org/co_management



Resources we like

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) is business-focused NGO that is using corporate responsibility, information tools and a methodology that allows companies to directly engage with suppliers of natural resources. It does not campaign or provide eco-labels, but works to reduce the barriers to action by fishing industry to create a more sustainable management of aquatic resources.

Visit the website at www.sustainablefish.org/



RFLP in the news



An article on RFLP's community-based IUU reporting initiative in Timor-Leste was featured in the November 2012 issue of the Samudra Report, the journal of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers. The issue can be seen online at <http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/63.html>

RFLP's work on utilizing traditional *Tara bandu* laws for resource management in Timor-Leste was featured in the New Agriculturalist journal and can be seen at <http://www.new-ag.info/en/focus/focusItem.php?a=2832>

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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