



MINISTERIO  
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES  
Y DE COOPERACIÓN



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

### Highlights

#### A brighter future beckons for Negombo lagoon

Sri Lanka's Negombo lagoon has suffered severe environmental degradation for many years, much to the concern of lagoon fishing communities, residents, religious leaders and civil society representatives.

Recognizing the scope of the problem RFLP has worked with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including government agencies and fishers to develop a fisheries management plan for the lagoon.

The plan contains measures to protect the livelihoods of genuine lagoon fishers through a strictly enforced licensing system and ensures sustainable utilization of resources through enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance. Elements of the plan are already being put into place, for example the demarcation of lagoon boundaries is well underway and should provide protection against illegal encroachment.



*Illegal and uncontrolled dumping of waste is a major issue facing Negombo lagoon.*

***"Fishers were frustrated by their inability to address a host of non-fishery related issues such as illegal encroachment into the lagoon, destruction of mangroves, effluents and waste discharge which adversely impacted fish and fisheries," said RFLP's Leslie Joseph. "The RFLP concept of wider stakeholder participation in fisheries management was therefore seen as an ideal opportunity for all stakeholders to share responsibility, to be accountable and to be actively involved in managing the fishery and conserving the lagoon environment."***

For more see: [www.rflp.org/Negombo\\_lagoon](http://www.rflp.org/Negombo_lagoon)

**RFLP micro-finance  
strategy set for  
national replication  
in Sri Lanka: see  
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#### RFLP achievements presented to Timor-Leste president



RFLP activities and achievements were presented to the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste Taur Matan Ruak at the Presidential Palace in Dili on 5 February 2013. Chief of Fisheries Inspection Department, Lourenco Amaral presented the project's key achievements especially in the area of community-based reporting of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing where RFLP has carried out a successful pilot activity.

For more see: [www.rflp.org/timor\\_leste](http://www.rflp.org/timor_leste)

## Liloy's coastal resource and fisheries management efforts deliver results

The coastal resource and fisheries management plan developed by the local government unit of Liloy in the Philippines with RFLP support is beginning to deliver results. Development of the plan helped local fisheries officials get a better understanding of issues facing fishers while improved programming and implementation has resulted in an increase in the budget for resource and fisheries management activities.

For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/co\\_management](http://www.rflp.org/co_management)



## Boosting data gathering skills in Timor-Leste

The effectiveness and efficiency of data gathering activities carried out by staff of Timor-Leste's National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA) have been improved following capacity building provided by RFLP. The time consuming use and collection of log books has been replaced by geo-referenced photographs and email. Provision of basic equipment such as digital weighing scales has also helped ensure more accurate data is gathered.

For more see: [www.rflp.org/timor\\_leste](http://www.rflp.org/timor_leste)



## Profile - Thieng Sao: from illegal fisher to fisheries protector

The leader of C h u m p o u Khmao community fishery in Cambodia was once an illegal fisher. Today, Thieng Sao leads from the front (and has the bruises to show for it) in the battle to keep illegal fishers out and to protect community resources.



*Thieng Sao poses with illegal nets his team has confiscated.*

Read more at: [www.rflp.org/Thieng\\_Sao](http://www.rflp.org/Thieng_Sao)

## RFLP contribution to fisheries resources protection recognized in Viet Nam

RFLP has been honoured for its efforts to support the management of Viet Nam's Tam Giang Cau-Hai Lagoon. The recognition was made during a conference to assess the system of Fisheries Protected Areas in Thua Thien Hue Province held 31 January 2013. Tam Giang-Cua-Hai Lagoon in Thua Thien Hue province is the biggest brackish lagoon in Southeast Asia. RFLP has provided technical and financial assistance to three Fisheries Protected Areas within the lagoon while also helping equip patrol teams to combat illegal fishing and build capacity of the Fisheries Associations.

For more see: [www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/RFLP\\_recognized\\_Vietnam.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/RFLP_recognized_Vietnam.pdf)



*RFLP's Nguyen Song Ha (right) receives the award.*





Mr Em Phea

## Profile - Cambodian fisheries officer puts new skills to use

A Cambodian official is putting to use some of the skills he has learned from RFLP training. As a key figure in the Fisheries Administration Cantonment of Kampong Som province Mr. Em Phea took part in RFLP training on marine survey techniques and aquaculture good practices.

Speaking about his aquaculture skills he says, "Before attending the training on good aquaculture practices I had limited knowledge. The training has helped me to be more confident in interacting with farmers. I have put the training to use as lots of people in the area are doing small-scale aquaculture."

For more see: [www.rflp.org/Em\\_Phea](http://www.rflp.org/Em_Phea)

## Case study – mangrove rehabilitation in Indonesia

RFLP has worked with communities in Kupang District in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Province and in collaboration with the World Food Programme to replant mangrove areas as part of an initiative to rehabilitate and build better awareness of the coastal environment. In total some 110,000 seedlings were replanted between November 2011 and October 2012 in three communities. This pilot has shown that the potential success of mangrove replanting efforts is heavily reliant upon ensuring full community buy in and participation during every stage of the process.

For more see:

[www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Case\\_study\\_Mangrove\\_Planting\\_Indonesia.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Case_study_Mangrove_Planting_Indonesia.pdf)



## Cambodian communities plant 4,000 mangroves

Some 4,000 mangrove seedlings have been planted by members of Cambodian coastal communities after they learned about the environmental and economic importance of mangroves during training supported by RFLP. In all, 88 participants of whom 26 were women, took part in the three-day course designed to provide a basic understanding of the ecological roles, economic importance and good management practices of mangrove ecosystems.

For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/Cambodia\\_mangroves](http://www.rflp.org/Cambodia_mangroves)



## Case study - Beach access paths boost fisher income in Sri Lanka but at a cost

Gravel paths to beach landing sites in Sri Lanka's Puttalam district have provided almost immediate benefits to fishers. By facilitating access to the beach for small-scale traders mainly using bicycles or motorcycles fishers are able to obtain better prices for their products when before they had little choice but to sell at low prices to a small number of middle persons. However opening up access also has its downside as it provides easier beach access for illegal beach seine fishers using tractors.



Read a short case study at: [www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Case\\_study\\_beach\\_access\\_Sri\\_Lanka.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Case_study_beach_access_Sri_Lanka.pdf)

## Case study – Seaweed for a better life

RFLP has supported women's producer groups in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur province to improve the quality of their products and operations all along the value and market chains. This case study focuses on the 'Mama Fons' group whose products have gone from village snacks to being available on the shelves of major national retailers.



For more see: [www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Case\\_study\\_Seaweed\\_for\\_a\\_better\\_life\\_0.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Case_study_Seaweed_for_a_better_life_0.pdf)

## Breathing new life into Oeba fish landing centre

Oeba fish landing centre in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province has been revitalized following the development of a management plan and basic infrastructure improvements supported by RFLP. Located in Kupang City, Oeba serves fishers from a wide area yet despite its importance, faced a number of problems. RFLP worked in a challenging environment to engage fishers and traders in drawing up a management plan as well as carrying out basic renovations.



For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Oeba\\_fish\\_landing\\_renovation.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Oeba_fish_landing_renovation.pdf)

# Safety at sea and reduced vulnerability

## Change story – First aid skills help Timor-Leste families



First aid training and basic equipment provided by RFLP to fisher families in Timor-Leste is being put to good use. Seeking to reduce the vulnerability of fishers and their families, RFLP held basic first aid training during 2012. One of the participants in the training was 30-year-old Dulce Thomas, the wife of a fisher from Liquica district.

"From the training I learnt how to treat people who were bleeding, how to use a sling for arm injuries and to carry out resuscitation. I used the first aid kit to treat my nephew who had an accident on his motorcycle. The accident was not severe but his arm and leg were injured," Dulce says.

Previously many injuries would not have been treated due to limited access to medical services for fisher communities.

Read more at: [www.rflp.org/first\\_aid\\_timor](http://www.rflp.org/first_aid_timor)

For more information see [www.rflp.org](http://www.rflp.org)



## Timor-Leste develops national aquaculture strategy

Timor-Leste is putting aquaculture at the forefront of its efforts to combat malnutrition and poverty. The National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture has developed a National Aquaculture Development Strategy in collaboration with WorldFish Centre, RFLP and the Coral Triangle Support Partnership. The strategy will support the emergence of small and medium size aquaculture businesses, and help connect farmers to fish markets. Meanwhile brackish water aquaculture and mariculture will be developed in coastal communities and freshwater aquaculture in the interior of the country.

For more see: [www.rflp.org/Timor\\_lesle\\_aquaculture\\_strategy](http://www.rflp.org/Timor_lesle_aquaculture_strategy)



## Video: Community boat repair facilities benefit small-scale fishers in Cambodia

A community boat repair facility supported by RFLP in Cambodia is benefitting members of Trapaing Sangke Community Fishery near Kampot. By being able to take their boats out of the water for maintenance at an affordable price members can save money and also keep their boats in a safer condition. Income from the facility is used to support local resource management activities such as patrolling or mangrove replanting as well as to help poorer members of the community.

Watch the video at: [www.rflp.org/cambodia](http://www.rflp.org/cambodia)



## Profile – Om Adi: making a success of catfish farming in Kupang

A back yard catfish farmer in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur province has overcome setbacks and become a successful catfish entrepreneur. Om Adi, from Kupang Municipality has received support from RFLP but at the heart of his success lies his entrepreneurial spirit, hard work and determination to overcome adversity.



Read more at: <http://bit.ly/12FNedZ>

## Profile - Archer Noel: championing Dapitan City's livelihoods development

Basic business planning techniques introduced by RFLP have been put to use by Dapitan City's livelihoods development officer Archer Noel. These included the business plans for production of bamboo crafts, a business which has taken off and is benefiting all members of the community.

For more see: [http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Archer\\_Noel.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Archer_Noel.pdf)



## Rice banks benefit Cambodian coastal communities

Fisher-farmers in Cambodian coastal communities have been able to improve their food security and generate additional income as a result of village rice banks established with the support of RFLP.

A shortage of rice normally occurs between July and November during which time farmers are forced to borrow either rice or money from middle-traders at high interest rates.

In response, RFLP has helped three CFIs from Prey Nup District in Preah Sihannouk province to establish rice banks. This is a totally new approach for these predominantly fishing communities despite the fact that most of the residents possess rice fields and have traditionally also cultivated paddy rice.

The aim of rice banks is to help the poor farmers by lending them rice when they need it and to help them generate additional income from selling rice when they have a surplus.

For more see: [www.rflp.org/cambodia](http://www.rflp.org/cambodia)



## Gender

### Profile - Angelita Collyer: championing women's economic empowerment in Dipolog



By championing women's empowerment a government manager is making a difference for women in the Philippines. In 2010, forty-six-year-old Angelita Collyer or "Angie" took part in an RFLP workshop on best practices for mainstreaming gender in the fisheries sector. As Operations Manager of the Livelihoods Skills Development and Enhancement Center (LSDEC) of the City of Dipolog, Angie has been putting to use the tools and concepts she learned at the workshop. Gender values are being incorporated into training and traditionally 'male' activities such as welding and plumbing have been opened up to women.

Read more at: [www.rflp.org/gender](http://www.rflp.org/gender)

### Profile - Theresa Sañado: A lifelong commitment to Philippine fisheries

The City of Dipolog's only fisheries technician, Theresa Sañado has spent her working life trying to protect fisheries resources in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province while helping improve the lives of those in coastal communities.

Read more at: [www.rflp.org/philippines](http://www.rflp.org/philippines)





## Fisheries minster requests national replication of RFLP Sri Lanka micro-finance strategy

The achievements of RFLP in enhancing access to micro-finance for fisher communities in Sri Lanka are set to be replicated nationwide. At the request of the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, RFLP is providing support to formulate a policy framework for the National Fisheries Federation (NFF) to implement RFLP's 'Fish Finance' strategy throughout Sri Lanka.

The development comes after RFLP presented its achievements to the minister in March 2013.

"The Minister recognized the unique approach RFLP has taken and the considerable impact it has made during a short period of time. He also encouraged the replication of this process nationally," said Dr. Champa Amarasiri, National Project Manager of RFLP Sri Lanka.

For more see: [www.rflp.org/Sri\\_lanka](http://www.rflp.org/Sri_lanka)



## Change story - Cambodian Community Fishery savings group gains efficiency and members



A community savings group in a Cambodian coastal village has seen its membership jump and operations improve following support provided by RFLP. Recognizing that a lack of access to capital is a major barrier to the reduction of vulnerability in coastal communities, RFLP has worked to boost financial literacy skills in 15 Community Fisheries (CFis). Following the training, one of the CFis, Boeung Raing in Preah Sihanouk province decided to restructure itself. By bringing in an accountant and better record keeping practices community confidence in the group has increased. As a result membership and savings have risen considerably.

Read more at [www.rflp.org/access\\_to\\_micro\\_finance](http://www.rflp.org/access_to_micro_finance)

## Resources

### Process note - Improved processing and marketing of fisheries and aquatic products in NTT

From late 2010 to mid 2013 RFLP carried out a strategy to improve post-harvest processing, handling and marketing of fisheries and aquatic products by coastal communities in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur province. Major results of the strategy included: The capacity of 20 producer groups (mainly women) being enhanced; the success of producer groups to have products recognised provincially and nationally; the capacity of key local staff built who will continue to support communities long after RFLP has ended; and management and conditions at Oeba fish landing centre improved.

For more see: [www.rflp.org/Indonesia\\_post\\_harvest](http://www.rflp.org/Indonesia_post_harvest)



## Baseline survey overviews

During the early phases of RFLP baseline surveys were carried out in all six RFLP countries. The results helped shape national RFLP priorities and activities while the surveys themselves revealed a wealth of valuable data concerning small-scale fishing communities.

As part of an exercise to highlight key baseline findings and to make the survey results more accessible and understandable by a wider audience graphic summaries of each survey have been produced. It is hoped that these will help add to the level of understanding of small-scale fishing communities in South and Southeast Asia and act as gateway to the more detailed information contained in the surveys themselves.

See: [www.rflp.org/baseline\\_surveys](http://www.rflp.org/baseline_surveys)



## Safety at sea for small-scale fishers - Sinhala language

RFLP has produced a Sinhala-language illustrated manual explaining safety at sea procedures for small-scale fishers.



Download: [www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Safety%20Manual\\_B5.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Safety%20Manual_B5.pdf)

## Mangroves and the coastal environment comic book – Bahasa language

A Bahasa-language comic book helps explain the important role mangroves play in protecting the coastal environment.

Download: [www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Mangroves\\_coastal\\_environment.pdf](http://www.rflp.org/sites/default/files/Mangroves_coastal_environment.pdf)

## The end is coming soon!

The Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme is set to end on 31 August 2013. Field activities are set to wrap up in May. Closing meetings will be held in June and July in each RFLP country to bring national programmes to an end and to share results and lessons learned with government agencies, donors and other stakeholders. A final regional steering committee meeting will then be held in Bangkok in August to officially bring the programme to a close.

By the end of the programme a series of publications and reports will be produced including lessons learned notes, case studies and change stories. National terminal reports and an overall programme terminal report will also be finalised by the end of August.

All material will remain available on [www.rflp.org](http://www.rflp.org) for some time but will also be migrated to the main FAO website as well as the website of the Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission [www.apfrc.org](http://www.apfrc.org).

For more information please contact [steve.needham@fao.org](mailto:steve.needham@fao.org)

### 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)



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