



Proceedings

End of Project Meeting: Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-Being in Southeast Asia (2013-2019)

30-31 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand



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Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

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Executive Summary

The two-day “End-of-Project Meeting of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project: Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia Project (2013-2019)” was convened by SEAFDEC on 30-31 October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The End-of-Project Meeting (EOP Meeting) gathered around 80 participants from nine ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; and representatives from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, Thailand, and regional organizations and projects. The EOP Meeting summed up the results and outputs of the Project, highlighting on the major achievements of Project’s three output objectives: 1) Capacity built for integration of habitat & fisheries management and adaptation to climate change; 2) Capacity built and systems improved for the management of fishing capacity (monitoring; record and control); and 3) Capacity built and policy development processes improved for the drafting and implementation of regional & sub-regional agreements and improvement of policy development processes.

Following the Project’s output objectives, the EOP Meeting was divided into five (5) Sessions:

1. Sustainable Utilization of Transboundary Fishery Resources
2. Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation for the Management of Fishing Capacity and Combating IUU Fishing
 - Panel 1: Understanding on key elements to improve systems to monitor, record and control the fisheries
 - Panel 2: Strengthening MCS networks
 - Panel 3: Regional initiatives on eACDS and fisheries Traceability
3. Building Awareness and Capability on Livelihoods Diversification options and Adaptation to Climate Change for Poverty alleviation
4. Why and what have been undertaken in gender integration?
5. Looking Back – Looking Forward: The major advantages and the usefulness of a sub-regional platform

Each Session was prefaced by short recap of the achievements of the Project activities by the Panelists based on their experiences and the lessons learnt from their involvement in the activities, with emphasis on the benefits gained by the AMSs from the Project activities. Thus, the EOP Meeting concluded with the key messages and recommendations on various aspects, *e.g.* transboundary species, EAFM, sub-regional cooperation for combating IUU fishing, addressing cross-cutting issues at the community level as well as gender integration.

The achievements of the Project as well as the experiences, best practices, and lessons learned from the implementation of the Project activities that were shared by the participants with the stakeholders during the EOP Meeting, and the results of the output objectives together with recommendations for future actions, are depicted briefly in this EOP Meeting Proceedings. It is the desire of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project that this EOP Meeting Proceedings would serve as guide for SEAFDEC, the ASEAN, the Governments of the AMSs, and the partner organizations in carrying out their respective activities that are built upon the initiatives that had been laid out through the Project.

List of Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASSP	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership
ASWGFi	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries
AQD	SEAFDEC/Aquaculture Department
BOBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
CORIN-Asia	Asian Coastal Resources Institute-Foundation
DOF	Department of Fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO/RAP	FAO/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ILO	International Labour Organization
IFRDMD	SEAFDEC/Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JTF	Japanese Trust Fund for SEAFDEC
MFF	Mangroves for the Future
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MFRD	SEAFDEC/Marine Fisheries Research Department
MFRDMD	SEAFDEC/Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
MRC	Mekong River Commission
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RFPN	Regional Fisheries Policy Network
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action
RPOA-IUU	Regional Plan of Action (RPOA-IUU) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
TD	SEAFDEC/Training Department
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SDF	Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOM-AMAF	Senior Officials Meeting-ASEAN Ministers for Agriculture and Forestry
SwAM	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea
UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
USAID/RDMA	US Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia

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End of Project Meeting: Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-Being in Southeast Asia (2013-2019)



I. INTRODUCTION

The “End-of-Project Meeting of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project: Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia Project (2013-2019)” was convened by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) on 30-31 October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The objectives of the Meeting were to: 1) summarize the Project results and outputs and highlight the major achievements; 2) share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned from the project implementation and from the results; and 3) seek proposals as well as commitment from the primary stakeholders, *i.e.* SEAFDEC, ASEAN, governments, partner agencies and institutions, and fisher communities, on actions to sustain the project initiatives after the completion of this Project. The Program of the Meeting appears as **Annex 1**.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from nine ASEAN Member States, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; and representatives from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, Thailand, and regional organizations and projects that included the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP); US Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), Bangkok, Thailand;

SEAFDEC-based UNEP/GEF/Fisheries *Refugia* Project; Asian Coastal Resources Institute Foundation (CORIN-Asia), Cambodia; Learning Institute (LI), Cambodia; and the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), Thailand. Also, officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat including the Manager of the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) for SEAFDEC, Bangkok, Thailand; SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), Terengganu, Malaysia; SEAFDEC Training Department (TD), Samut Prakan, Thailand; and members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) stationed at SEAFDEC Secretariat, attended the Meeting. Of the total 82 participants, 38 were females and 44 males. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 2**.

Exhibition Posters depicting the key activities of the Project were arranged simultaneously with the Meeting, as shown in **Annex 3**.

II. OPENING SESSION

To formally open the Meeting, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, welcomed the participants and expressed the appreciation to the Government of Sweden for extending financial support to SEAFDEC for the implementation of the Project. Such assistance has enabled SEAFDEC to undertake several activities to support the ASEAN Member



States (AMSs) in achieving the goals of sustainable use of aquatic resources and reduced vulnerability of fishing communities to the impacts of climate change. Through the course of its implementation, the Project has addressed the critical issues of sustainable fisheries resources and habitat management, combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and capacity building of local communities in selected sites to sustain the fishery resources, protect habitats, and assure the well-being of people. She emphasized on the importance of this final meeting as an opportunity for countries and the partner organizations to review the project highlights, including the key achievements, insights and lessons learned from the process and results. She also thanked all the partners for joining this Meeting and requested their continued cooperation to ensure that the activities of the Project are carried on beyond 2019.

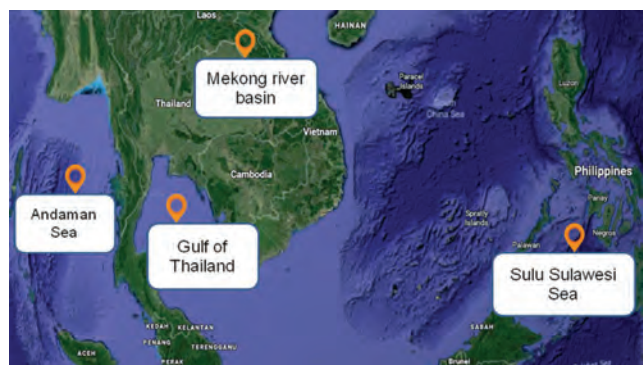
While also welcoming the participants, the Counselor and Head of Development Cooperation, Asia and the Pacific Region of the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, Thailand, Ms. Åsa Hedén cited the immense pressures on the oceans and their impacts on the livelihood of the people who are dependent on the oceans, and the Project has immensely contributed to all efforts in addressing the challenges and relieving the pressures. She highlighted some important project achievements and commended SEAFDEC for the successful attainment of the Project's objectives. In this regard, she expressed the willingness of the Government



of Sweden to continue its collaboration with SEAFDEC in supporting the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and enhancing the cooperation among the AMSs in the future. She also stressed the need for the AMSs to strengthen their engagement with and support of SEAFDEC. She informed the Meeting that a terminal evaluation has been conducted on the Project which is expected to yield useful lessons for sustaining the initiatives of the Project beyond 2019. She also reiterated the emphasis being pursued by the Government of Sweden which is in pursuit of the objectives of SDG14, particularly those on marine governance and marine litter.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE SEAFDEC-SWEDEN PROJECT

In presenting the overview of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, the Project Manager Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn reviewed the Outcome Objective of the Project which focuses on “sustainable use of aquatic resources and reduced vulnerability to climate change by coastal/rural (fishing) communities in the ASEAN region,” and the three Output Objectives of building and strengthening capacity among the AMSs that resulted in 1) Capacity built for integration of habitat & fisheries management and adaptation to climate change; 2) Capacity built and systems improved for the management of fishing capacity (monitoring, record and control); and 3) Policy development processes improved for the drafting and implementation of regional and sub-regional agreements, and improvement of policy development processes with special focus areas in the Andaman Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, and Mekong River Basin Sub-regions. The Project had supported the AMSs in addressing issues and concerns relevant to several global and regional commitments and conventions such as the UNCLOS, UNFSA, 1995 FAO Code of Conducts for Responsible Fisheries, 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, ASEAN Charter and the path towards an ASEAN Community by 2015,



Map of the Sub-regional Areas for the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project

ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, and the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP).

The achievements and deliverables under each Output Objective could be summarized as follows:

- For **Output Objective 1** “*Capacity built for integration of habitat & fisheries management and adaptation to climate change,*” which is closely related to the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life below water, the Project developed and promoted various strategies that address the need to implement science-based management plans for restoring the fish stocks and enhancing the sustainable use of fish species such as neritic tunas and mackerels at regional and sub-regional levels, particularly in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea. The Project also enhanced the human knowledge and capacity of the stakeholders in fisheries and habitat management, as well as in better understanding of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) concept.
- On **Output Objective 2** “*Capacity built and systems improved for the management of fishing capacity (monitoring, record and control),*” regional and sub-regional platforms were initiated for the AMSs to obtain and share among the countries, the various aspects of knowledge and information in relation to monitor and control, and combating IUU fishing, such as fishing vessel registration and the processes to provide licenses to fish, the procedures for catch landing by foreign fishing vessels, among others. The significant outputs include the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Management of Fishing Capacity, and the Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS). The Project also provided capacity building toward the establishment of sub-regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) networks, as well as the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) by the AMSs.
- For **Output Objective 3** “*Policy development processes improved for the drafting and implementation of regional & sub-regional agreements,*” the Project facilitated the sub-regional platforms for discussion among countries in the Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, and Mekong River Basin Sub-regions. The Project also successfully supported SEAFDEC and its Member Countries in strengthening their capacity to address several cross-cutting issues, including social well-being,

human rights-based, livelihood development, labor, working conditions and safety at sea, and gender in small-scale fisheries. Specifically, gender integration has received a strong institutional support with the adoption of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy. The Project also supported various local organizations to implement activities focusing on livelihood and social well-being, in partnership with various organizations, such as ASEAN, FAO, MRC, RPOA-IUU, ILO, UNEP, IUCN/MFF, SEI, SwAM, SEAFDEC/JTF, NOAA, among others.

IV. SHARING OF EXPERIENCES, BEST PRACTICES, AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Sustainable Utilization of Transboundary Fishery Resources

In the introductory presentations made by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn* from SEAFDEC Secretariat and *Mr. Mohammad Faisal bin Md Saleh* from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, the key achievements under the Project Output Objective 1 “*capacity built for integration of habitat & fisheries management and adaptation to climate change*” were summarized. With regards to the Project activities toward achieving the sustainability of transboundary fishery resources, such as neritic tunas, mackerels, and other small pelagic species, capacity building was provided for the AMSs on the collection and analysis of data/information on transboundary resources for the countries to come up with science-based information and technical advice for the management of the target species. Through these activities, sub-regional cooperation in managing transboundary stocks of small pelagic species in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea had been successfully fostered. Specifically, the Project supported the capacity building activities on data collection and analysis of a number of attributes and characteristics of the transboundary species, and training



of enumerators for data collection and DNA analysis of the Indo-Pacific mackerel to obtain a better understanding of the stock status, particularly in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In collaboration with UNEP/GEF Project on Fisheries *Refugia*, the Project also facilitated the drafting of the Regional Action Plan for Management of Indo-Pacific Mackerel for the Gulf of Thailand, for subsequent submission to the SEAFDEC Council of Directors for consideration. Moreover, awareness and knowledge of the AMSs on relevant subjects had been successfully enhanced, including the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), fisheries resource and habitat management, conservation and rehabilitation, among others.

Results of the neritic tuna studies and outputs of the meetings of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Neritic Tunas conducted from 2014 to 2019, and relevant regional workshops held during 2016-2018, were also reported to the Meeting. Specifically, results of the stock and risk assessment of economically important species, such as longtail tuna (*Thunnus Tonggol*), kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*), Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*), and king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) in the Southeast Asian waters (Pacific side and Indian Ocean side), were summarized:

- For **longtail tuna**, generally the species had been seriously overfished, and subjected to overfishing in the Indian Ocean (2014), although the stock appeared to be in very safe situation in the Pacific Ocean (2013)
- For **kawakawa**, the species were in safe situation in the Indian Ocean (2014) as well as in the Pacific Ocean (2013)
- For **Spanish mackerel**, although the species appeared in the green zones, it was considered to be still not in a safe situation because of the high percentage of uncertainties, *i.e.* 73%, in the Indian Ocean (2016), while the species had been very seriously overfished and subject to overfishing in the Pacific Ocean (2016)
- For **king mackerel**, the species appeared to be in very safe situation in the Indian Ocean (2016), as well as in the Pacific Ocean (2016)

Furthermore, genetic and population study of longtail tuna in the Andaman Sea and South China Sea was also pursued using mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) displacement loop (D-loop) or control region, and Cytochrome b (Cyt b) markers. The results revealed that the haplotype diversity (hd) was high for all populations, with an overall value of 0.915 (D-loop) and 0.927 (Cyt b), but the values of nucleotide diversity (p) were generally low, *i.e.* 0.014 for D-loop and 0.0108 for Cyt b.

The results also indicated that the phylogenetic tree was genetically homogenous while Minimum Spanning Network (MSN) produced a complex reticulation and indicated no association between haplotype genealogy and geographic location. Analysis using MEGA 7 (Tajima-Nei model) showed that the genetic distance among population was low ranging from 0.013 to 0.017 (1.3% to 1.7%) for D-loop and 0.0037 to 0.0084 (0.37% - 0.84%) for Cyt b, suggesting that there is more breeding episodes between the populations which are less isolated from one another.

Nevertheless, there were constraints in the conduct of the stock assessment of longtail tuna, the major one of which is the limited data on CPUE from the countries in the region, as pointed out by *Mr. Faizal*. In this connection, MFRDMD would continue to carry out activities for neritic tunas under the new Japanese Trust Fund 6 Phase II (JTF6-II) Project “Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region” starting 2020. This Project aims to evaluate the fishery resources in the region for the establishment of sustainable management strategies for pelagic fisheries.

The introductory presentations were followed by Panel Discussion on Neritic Tunas and Indo-Pacific Mackerels, as well as on the promotion of the EAFM concept in the Southeast Asian region, which was facilitated by SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*. The Panelists were: *Mr. Matzaini Haji Juna* from Brunei Darussalam, *Ms. Praulai Nootmorn*, *Ms. Ratanalee Phoonsawat* and *Mr. Parnpan Worranut* from Thailand, *Ms. Nur Fadhline Chan binti Mahadie Chan* from Malaysia, and *Ms. Panitnard Weerawat* from SEAFDEC/TD. The Panelists have been involved in the studies on neritic tunas and Indo-Pacific mackerel, as well as in training of officers and implementation of the EAFM concept. The discussion and recommendations on the activities on neritic tunas and Indo-Pacific mackerels, and on the promotion of the EAFM concept are summarized in **Box 1** and **Box 2**, respectively.



Box 1. Summary of the Project's activities on stock assessment of neritic tunas and Indo-Pacific mackerel

Activities/Results

- Stock assessment (using the Kobe Plot) as well as DNA and stomach content analyses were conducted for longtail tuna and kawakawa
- Micro-satellite DNA analysis of Indo-Pacific mackerel had been conducted by the DOF, Thailand to understand the stock structure, including spawning grounds and spawning seasons, and migration pattern in the northern Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Sub-region
- Study extended to Cambodia, Malaysia, and Viet Nam since evidences have shown that Indo-Pacific mackerel is migrating within the whole GOT (*i.e.* spawning in one country but harvested in other countries in the GOT)

Issues/Challenges

- Insufficient long-term data on neritic tunas in most countries, although data were available only in some countries (*e.g.* Thailand)
- Data on catch per unit effort (CPUE) on neritic tunas is not standardized among the AMSs
- Insufficient experts on stock assessment of transboundary species in the Southeast Asian region
- Lack of fisheries management bodies for the management of transboundary species
- Relevant countries need to intensify the collection of long-term data to support the stock and risk assessment of transboundary species

Recommendations

- Capacity building specially for junior fisheries officers on the standard methods for data collection and analysis of transboundary species
- Conduct of multilateral talks and other joint efforts towards sub-regional management plan for transboundary species
- Establishment of a common regional platform for AMSs to facilitate the continuation of the Project's initiatives and regional action plan, considering that the AMSs have sovereign rights only in their respective waters

Box 2. Summary of the Project's activities on the promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

Activities/Results

- After organizing more than 20 EAFM training courses in the AMSs since 2014 involving more than 500 participant, more than 80 % of participants had improved their understanding of the EAFM concept
- Training of Trainers (TOT) on EAFM had also been promoted in the AMSs, the results of which indicated that 60 participants had enhanced their knowledge in the EAFM concept and are groomed to be potential members of the core teams capable of passing on their knowledge on the EAFM in their respective countries
- EAFM core teams in the learning sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Thailand have been spearheading the implementation of EAFM as well as human capacity building activities, through learning by doing
- Regional workshop on EAFM organized in October 2019 served as platform for sharing the lessons learned from the implementation of EAFM concept in different learning sites in the AMSs
- As a whole, the Project has contributed to improving the well-being of the people, particularly the small-scale fishers

Recommendations

- More EAFM learning sites should be established in other AMSs
- The knowledge generated by the Project should be conveyed to policy-makers for possible utilization as inputs for the development of national policies in support of small-scale fisheries
- Translation of the scientific findings generated through the Project, into understandable conclusions and management recommendations for utilization by managers and policy makers
- SEAFDEC to consider providing continued support to the capacity building activities on stock assessment including data collection and analysis of transboundary fishery resources in the region
- SEAFDEC, in collaboration with partners (*e.g.*, FAO, USAID, JTF), to consider enhancing its support to the AMSs in addressing management issues through the development of regional management measures and policies
- The initiatives undertaken by the Project should be carried forward to the new projects being developed by collaborative partners (*e.g.*, FAO/ BOBLME, IUCN, and others)

4.2 Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation for the Management of Fishing Capacity and Combating IUU Fishing

An overview of activities and results under the Project Output Objective 2 “*Capacity built and systems improved for the management of fishing capacity (monitoring; record and control)*” as presented by Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn, covered key concerns in the management of fishing capacity and fishing efforts. The Project had supported several regional, sub-regional, and bilateral activities and strengthened the networking and coordination with relevant international and regional organizations (*e.g.* ASEAN, FAO, RPOA-IUU) to address urgent issues including combating IUU fishing and putting an end to destructive fishing practices. The key

outcomes of the Project highlighted in the report, include the Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products (2016), the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity), and Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) developed and tested in Brunei Darussalam in 2017.

The Session was divided into three Panels, namely: 1) Understanding the key elements to improve systems to monitor, record, and control the fisheries; 2) Strengthening MCS networks; and 3) Regional initiatives on improvement of fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, and traceability.

Panel 1: Understanding the key elements to improve systems to monitor, record, and control the fisheries

The introductory presentation on the Project activities that were aimed at raising the awareness of the importance of addressing concerns on the management of fishing capacity and fishing efforts as well as combating IUU fishing, made by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn* emphasized on the need for the AMSs to understand the legal frameworks of neighboring countries. In this regard, the Project facilitated the conduct of regional, sub-regional, and bilateral discussions to understand the respective AMSs’ fisheries laws, and share information on fishing vessels registration systems as well as the activities that led to the development of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity), which serves as guide for the management of fishing capacity on a regional perspective, and has been implemented through bilateral or sub-regional cooperation, and also serves as guide for the formulation of relevant national plans of action.

The panel discussion was the conducted and facilitated by the Technical Expert from SEAFDEC/TD, *Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan*. The six Panelists included: *Mr. Ly Vuthy* from Cambodia, *Mr. Turman Hardianto Maha* from Indonesia, *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan binti Mahadie Chan* from Malaysia, *Ms. Nilar Kywe* from Myanmar, *Dr. Kamonpan Awaiwanont* from Thailand, and *Mr. Nguyen Thanh Binh* from Viet Nam. The views and concerns on the improvement of systems to monitor, record, and control the fisheries based on their respective countries’ experiences are summarized in **Box 3**.



Box 3. Summary of the Project’s activities towards improving of the systems to monitor, record, and control the fisheries

Project Results

- Results of the comparative review of fisheries laws of concerned AMSs, helped the fisheries officers at local and national levels in raising their awareness and better understanding of the fisheries laws of other AMSs, thus strengthening collaboration and coordination among the concerned countries
- Several AMSs revised (or are in the process of revising) their respective fisheries laws, to align with relevant international and regional instruments, e.g. those of the UNCLOS, PSMA, CITES, ILO, ASEAN, SEAFDEC, taking into consideration some regulations of other AMSs that were shared during the conduct of the comparative review of fisheries laws

Recommendations

- The results of the comparative review of fisheries laws of neighboring countries should be disseminated to the fishers for them to be well aware of the other countries’ regulations including prohibitions, e.g. from poaching in other countries’ waters, and to effectively manage transboundary fishery resources
- Myanmar to be considered in future comparative review of fisheries laws
- Regional policies developed by the Project should be translated into the national languages of the AMSs
- Technical assistance should be provided to AMSs in building their capacity to be able to implement the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
- Agreements for close collaboration and cooperation among the AMSs in combating IUU fishing that complements with the RPOA-Capacity should be established at the ministerial level for effective enforcement
- In combating IUU fishing, the small-scale fisheries including the welfare and livelihood of the communities, should be considered
- Lao PDR and Myanmar could be invited as observers during the RPOA-IUU Meeting in November 2019

Panel 2: Strengthening MCS networks

In the activities of the Project meant to strengthen sub-regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Networks as stipulated in the ASEAN RPOA-Capacity, presented by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, it was stressed that the Project facilitated the creation of sub-regional platforms for the establishment of MCS Networks in the Gulf of Thailand, Northern Andaman Sea, and Southern Andaman Sea during 2017-2019. The Project also paved the way for enhancing inter-agency cooperation among the AMSs in support of monitoring and control of fishing activities and combating IUU fishing. The MCS Networks would be strengthened as these provide the opportunity for countries in the

respective sub-regions to share information necessary for the improvement of the management of transboundary fisheries, control of fishing efforts, and surveillance.

In the subsequent panel discussion, which was conducted and facilitated by *Mr. Sutee Rajruchithong*, (Technical Expert from SEAFDEC/TD), four Panelists were involved, namely: *Mr. Chhuon Kimchhea* from Cambodia and *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan binti Mahadie Chan* from Malaysia (representing the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region), and *Ms. Nilar Kywe* from Myanmar (North Andaman Sea Sub-region) and *Mr. Turman Hardianto Maha* from Indonesia (representing the Southern Andaman Sea Sub-



Box 4. Summary of the Project's activities on the establishment of the MCS Networks

Gulf of Thailand Sub-region

- While the countries have already developed their respective NPOA-IUU, the MCS Network has enabled the countries to share information about and learn from each other's MCS efforts and experiences in combating IUU fishing
- The countries have developed good relationships with each other including within their respective relevant national agencies (e.g., fisheries, maritime enforcement, customs, and immigration)
- As part of implementing its own MCS, Cambodia has revised its Fisheries Law and is undertaking the processes for ratifying the PSMA

Andaman Sea Sub-region

- The development of MCS in Indonesia has been effective through the involvement of the relevant agencies, however, there is a need to appoint a focal person for the MCS Network
- To improve its MCS, Myanmar is establishing a strong coordination mechanism among the relevant national agencies
- Indonesia and Myanmar started to install VMS in fishing vessels in their respective countries as one of the strategies for effective adoption of the MCS
- Even though there remain several issues that need to be addressed, Indonesia is committed to cooperate with the other AMSs in strengthening the MCS Network, by being actively involved in the RPOA-IUU

region). The Panelists shared their views and concerns with respect to the need to strengthen MCS networks in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea Sub-regions based on their respective countries' experiences, which are summarized in **Box 4**.

Panel 3: Regional initiatives on improvement of fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, and traceability

In the presentation made by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, she explained the process of developing an electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) as a tool to enhance the traceability of fish and fishery products, and combat IUU fishing in the region. The eACDS was pilot-tested in Brunei Darussalam with support from the Project, after which it was successfully implemented in Brunei Darussalam, while several other countries also expressed their interest to implement the eACDS in their respective countries, e.g. Myanmar and Viet Nam.

Box 5. Summary of the Project's effort towards the development of the eACDS

Activities/Results

- The system established by SEAFDEC on the application of offline system under the eACDS to make it useful even when the Internet connection is poor or unavailable, especially at sea, is a welcome development which has been very much appreciated by Brunei Darussalam
- In Viet Nam, the eACDS is being effectively practiced by 50 fishing vessels in Binh Than Province, and the country is planning to expand the implementation of the eACDS nationwide

Issues/Challenges

- Not very active participation of stakeholders remains a challenge, e.g. low awareness of fishers
- Differences in the fisheries laws and regulations of the respective AMSs

Recommendations

- SEAFDEC was requested by Myanmar to provide technical assistance for the implementation of the eACDS in the country, as it could replace the paper-based catch certification system of the EU that the country has been applying
- SEAFDEC should also consider developing eACDS application for IOS operating system (in addition to the current Android operating system)
- SEAFDEC to consider expanding the eACDS application to cover products from small-scale fisheries and aquaculture
- The eACDS should be promoted and applied consistently throughout the Southeast Asian region, not only for improving intra-regional trade but also for trade with other regions, which requires compliance with relevant international and regional catch certification schemes



After the introductory presentation, panel discussion was conducted and facilitated by *Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan*, Technical Expert from SEAFDEC/TD. Four Panelists, namely: *Mr. Muhammad Jumkhairun Haji Jumat* from Brunei Darussalam, *Ms. Nilar Kywe* from Myanmar, *Mr. Huynh Quang Huy* from Viet Nam, shared their views and concerns about the traceability of fish and fishery products based on their respective countries' experiences (**Box 5**). In addition, *Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich* from TD also provided the regional views on the implementation of the eACDS in different countries.

4.3 Building Awareness and Capability on Livelihoods Diversification Options and Adaptation to Climate Change for Poverty Alleviation

The Session which was facilitated by the Gulf of Thailand Sub-regional Coordinator *Ms. Saisunee Chaksuin*, had three Panelists, namely: *Mr. Srey Marona* from the Learning Institute of Cambodia, *Dr. Khov Kuong* from CORIN-Asia Cambodia, and *Ms. Varuntorn Kaewtankam* from the Sustainable Development Foundation of Thailand. The representative from Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Thailand who was not able to join the Meeting sent the comments on the issues through email and summarized by *Ms. Saisunee*. The summary of the



Panel Discussion is shown in **Box 6**. Overall, the key concerns on the Project included the need to strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders, especially at the communities' level to enhance their capability in terms of livelihoods diversification, enhance their knowledge on the fisheries and habitat management, and improve their capability to adapt to climate change in order to ensure the well-being of the ecosystems and humankind.



4.4 Why and What Have Been Undertaken in Gender Integration?

The presentation of the summary of achievements in promoting gender in fisheries by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Gender Focal Point, *Ms. Jariya Sornkliang*, highlighted the commitment of the Southeast Asian countries to promote gender based on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, as well as the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, in order to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. With support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, several activities had been carried out by SEAFDEC such as capacity building, research program, and cooperation/networking with other organizations on gender integration. In the process, the SEAFDEC staff and officers from Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand were given the chance to conduct Gender Analysis, which is an important tool for better understanding of gender and social inequality issues, structural causes as well as socialization processes that produce, reproduce and reinforce inequality. The staff and officers are now able to analyze gender issues based on data collected from the field.

Specifically, the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project in partnership with IUCN/MFF and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) jointly carried out the regional gender study in South and Southeast Asia during 2017-2018.

Box 6. Summary of the Project's activities on livelihoods diversification for poverty alleviation

Prince of Songkla University (PSU) of Thailand

(Summarized by Ms. Saisunee Chaksuin)

- With support from the Project, the study “Local Ecological Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Approaches for Small-island Fishery and Tourism Management in Lipe Island, Andaman Sea, Thailand” was carried out by researchers from Prince of Songkla University (PSU)
- PSU systematically documented the local ecological knowledge (LEK) of Lipe Island and came up with two publications: 1) Report on Local Ecological Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Approaches for Small-island Fishery/Tourism Management on Lipe Island, Andaman Sea, Thailand; and 2) Technical Guidelines on Local Ecological Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Approaches for Small-island Fishery/Tourism Management on Lipe Island, Andaman Sea, Thailand
- These publications were very much appreciated by the local government units and especially by the Urak Lawoi community as these have enhanced their understanding of the need to increase the ecological resilience of the Island and the surrounding marine ecosystems, which are crucial to the sustainability of the people's sea-based livelihood
- This body of knowledge, *i.e.* LEK will also serve as a useful guide for the formulation and implementation of government assistance programs for indigenous people, and promotion of responsible tourism investments and management of tourism activities on fragile inhabited island ecosystems
- PSU recommended that relevant elements in the guidelines could be incorporated into the government policies and programs for Lipe Island as well as for other islands that are undergoing similar changes

Learning Institute (LI) of Cambodia

- The project “Strengthening Community Fisheries Management and Livelihoods Diversification in the Regions of the Tonle Sap and Coastal Provinces, Cambodia” was carried out during 2013-2017 and the accomplishments were published as the “Fisheries Reforms and Right-based Fisheries: Insights from Community Fisheries Across Cambodia” in Cambodian and English languages and distributed to relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels
- One of the key achievements of this project is the active involvement of youth groups in community fisheries management and development, by successfully establishing a savings group, participating in the evaluation of their activities with members of Community Fisheries (CFIs), engaging in the mangrove/flooded forest reforestation, collaborating among themselves in managing the fish conservation areas, and participating in social welfare activities during national holidays such as the Khmer New Year and Phum Ben
- Another key achievement is the empowerment of women after undertaking the training courses provided by LI on gender mainstreaming, more particularly, the women improved their knowledge on the importance of their roles in the CFIs, were provided more opportunities to participate in all CFI activities in meetings, decision-making, CFI development planning, patrolling, conflict resolution, and information sharing
- The LI therefore recommended that: 1) exploring and developing other livelihood options outside of fishing for increased social resilience should be continued, and the ability of fisher communities to explore and engage in off-farm sources of income should be enhanced; 2) focus should be placed on capacity building of the youth for continuity of the project initiatives; and 3) results of the discussion of the climate change issues (risks and their impacts, risk mitigation, adaptive capacity building, and vulnerability reduction, and so on) should be elevated from the community to the provincial level

CORIN-Asia Cambodia

- The key achievements of the activities carried out by CORIN-Asia in collaboration with the local institutions in the coastal provinces of Cambodia, include coastal habitat conservation undertaken (*i.e.*, mangrove rehabilitation, seagrass restoration, and mudflat conservation), integrated coastal zone management promoted, fisheries resource and habitat (mangrove) enhanced through the crab bank project, occurrence of a coastal strip and incidence of marine water pollution have been mitigated through the adoption of a solid waste management scheme by the coastal communities, and development of alternative livelihoods such as finfish cage culture
- The crab bank could be considered as the best activity as it has enhanced the wild crab resource and, remarkably, increased the incomes of crab fishers through the incentives received for donating gravid crabs to the crab bank; and also encouraged the community to conserve the mangrove areas. Most of the activities could serve as models for replication in other rural and coastal communities of Cambodia

Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), Thailand

- The key achievements of the activities undertaken by SDF under the project “Towards an Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management in Trat Bay” from 2016 to 2018, include a situation analysis of the potential climate change impact on coastal communities, which was geared to support the adaptation measures by the communities in area-based, rights-based, and gender-sensitive approach; and the production of a single map, an integrated multi-stakeholder information system for ecosystems-based management of fisheries resources in Trat Bay
- The participatory multi-stakeholder process contributed largely to the success of the project
- The SDF therefore recommended that the established network should be sustained, while providing support through training and technical advice on management skills should be continued, with the gender component to be incorporated in the future projects

Box 7. Summary of the Project's Gender Initiatives

Activities/Achievements by SEAFDEC

- Formation of SEAFDEC Gender Team and designation of SEAFDEC Gender Focal Persons for the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department (TD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)
- In-house capacity building on gender aspects for staff of SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD
- Adoption by the SEAFDEC Council of SEAFDEC Gender Strategy that provides the overarching framework for SEAFDEC in integrating gender in its programs, projects, and activities
- Development of "Gender Synthesis Review" and "Gender Analysis Toolkit" to improve gender integration and mainstreaming in coastal resource management programs in South and Southeast Asia in collaboration with IUCN/SEI
- Field level work and local capacity building on gender-based activities and reporting by the sub-contracted partners
- Dissemination and promotion of the "Policy Brief: Applying Human Rights-based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia"
- Development of the Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia

Experiences shared and lessons learned

- Distinction between "gender" and "sex" clarified
- Many fisheries agencies in respective AMSs are already gender sensitive and responsive
- Staff in fisheries agencies have acquired the skills in gender mainstreaming, promoting gender equality, and integrating gender in development activities
- Budget for the promotion of gender allocated in many fisheries agencies (e.g., Philippines)
- Gender already incorporated in most decision making and policy formulations
- Awareness of gender issues in fisheries value chain in terms of the roles of women and men, had been enhanced
- Gender analysis includes design of regulatory framework that supports small-scale fisheries and the planning and implementation of activities to promote balanced participation of women and men in small-scale fisheries
- Gender analysis is now slowly being incorporated in the planning of projects and policy making
- The importance of gender analysis has been recognized, especially in understanding the kind and intensity of impacts of climate change on women and men, which could be different, and in designing the risk management measures (mitigation, coping, and adaptation) that would suit the needs and circumstances of women and men
- Participation of women in programs and activities is no longer assessed simply in terms of number involved but also in their roles in such programs and activities
- Women's active participation in fisheries is already slowly being recognized as a contributor to enhancing the productivity of fisheries
- Women are now actively engaged in crafting community fisheries management and development plans
- Women-managed areas along the fisheries chain (not only in post-harvest) had already increased
- Women are now highly and actively participating in the planning of and decision making in community projects
- Equitable access to resources among men and women, is already being promoted
- Networking of women in fisheries had been enhanced leading to improved adherence to international conventions, codes, and standards

Recommendations and ways forward

- The AMSs and SEAFDEC should ensure that policies on gender are translated into action
- SEAFDEC to monitor the progress of implementation of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy
- The AMSs and SEAFDEC should make sure that gender is surely integrated into projects, policies, and development programs
- SEAFDEC to consider organizing more training workshops on gender concept for technical staff as well as for local leaders and high officials
- Fisheries agencies to hire/train gender specialists, if needed
- In organizing meetings, there should be a balanced attendance of women and men who would then could engage in discussions to better understand each other's roles in development programs and organization
- Skills in gender analysis should be enhanced and updated to better understand and appreciate the roles and responsibilities of women and men in community development projects
- Gender-disaggregated data should be collected along the entire fish value chain to determine the work of women in the fish value chain, and devise a scheme that would provide social welfare benefits to women
- Membership of women in the fishing and environmental management committees in local governments, should be improved
- AMSs and SEAFDEC should continue collaborating with the international/national/local women's organizations/groups

One of activities was the conduct of Gender Analysis in three selected sites, namely: Kep Province in Cambodia; Kawthaung Township in Myanmar, and Trat Province in Thailand, which was meant to obtain understanding on the status of women and men in fisheries value chain, and generate information on the current gender related differences in relation to fisheries resource management.

In 2018-2019, the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project also conducted regional workshops to enhance the understanding by concerned stakeholders on human-rights based and gender equity in small-scale fisheries. Key outputs were: the Policy Brief on Applying Human Rights-based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia, and the Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

To sustain the initiative on integration of gender in the fisheries sector, the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project also facilitated the development of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy which was adopted by the SEAFDEC Council at its 51st Meeting in 2019. The SEAFDEC Gender Strategy is aimed at facilitating gender mainstreaming at all levels of the organization and serve as an organizational overarching framework for SEAFDEC to integrate gender in its programs, projects, and activities. The SEAFDEC Gender Strategy comprised five (5) strategies, namely: 1) Mainstreaming Gender at all Levels of the Organization; 2) Integrating Gender in SEAFDEC Programs and Projects; 3) Incorporating Gender Perspectives in all Events organized by SEAFDEC; 4) Boosting the Visibility of SEAFDEC as a Gender-responsive and Gender-sensitive Organization; and 5) Strengthening further the Cooperation and Collaboration with Member Countries and Other Organizations on Gender Aspects.

In order to promote gender mainstreaming and integration in fisheries, the regional meetings recommended that Gender Analysis should be replicated in other Southeast Asian countries; SEAFDEC to consider developing training package to disseminate gender concept and knowledge to all its Member Countries; SEAFDEC to plan a program on gender in development which would show the importance of gender integration and guide other development projects on how to mainstream gender; and that SEAFDEC should consider strengthening gender in development for the Southeast Asian countries

After the introductory presentation, the panel discussion that followed was facilitated by *Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat*, Technical Expert of the SEAFDEC/TD with six Panelists, namely *Ms. Doungdavanh Sibounthong* from Lao PDR,

Ms. May Thanda Wint from Myanmar, *Ms. Mildred Mercene Buazon* from the Philippines, *Ms. Susana Siar* from FAO/RAP, *Mr. Srey Marona* from the Learning Institute-Cambodia, and *Ms. Varuntorn Kaewtankam* from SDF-Thailand. The Panelists commented on the gender program and shared their respective organization's experiences on gender aspects (**Box 7**).



4.5 Looking Back – Looking Forward: The major advantages and the usefulness of a sub-regional platform

In the ensuing discussion which had the former SEAFDEC Senior Advisor, *Dr. Magnus Torell* as the facilitator and together with four representatives from the AMSs, namely: *Mr. Buoy Roitana* from Cambodia, *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan binti Mahadie Chan* from Malaysia, *Dr. Kyaw Kyaw* from Myanmar, and *Dr. Kamonpan Awaiwanont* from Thailand, the respective countries' experiences, the lessons learned, and the benefits gained from their participation in sub-regional platforms were shared.

It was recalled that four sub-regions have been formalized under the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, where various Project activities had been carried out. These

are the *Andaman Sea Sub-region* (North and South), *Gulf of Thailand Sub-region*, and in collaboration with partners the *Sulu-Sulawesi Seas Sub-region* and *Mekong River Basin Sub-region*. These sub-regions are notably marked by variations in agro-climatic, economic and socio-cultural conditions, aquatic species, and systems. The countries in these sub-regions are Thailand and Myanmar in the North Andaman Sea Sub-region;

Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand in the South Andaman Sea Sub-region; Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region. The summary of the lessons learned and benefits gained from engaging in the Project's sub-regional platforms is shown in **Box 8**.

The regional partners also provided relevant information on the potential areas of collaboration to continue the

Box 8. Summary of the lessons learned and benefits gained from the Project's sub-regional initiatives

The premise

- Countries can commit only based on their respective policies, laws, rules and regulations; and are not expected to act beyond their national legal and institutional frameworks
- Management of any sub-regional fishery area/water body requires cooperation among the countries bordering and sharing the area, which in turn requires awareness and understanding of each other country's policies, laws, rules and regulations
- A mechanism should be established to share information and jointly manage fisheries in sub-regional fishery areas (semi-enclosed seas and river systems), and such mechanism should build upon sub-regional cooperation empowered by formal agreements, *i.e.* MOAs, MOUs, Joint Action Plans, and other instruments, that warrant joint commitment and coordination between and among national initiatives
- The various sub-regional mechanisms could then be assimilated into a regional mechanism of collaboration by the ASEAN, where the ASEAN could build on the sub-regional mechanisms rather than duplicate them as basis for implementation of general (ASEAN) fisheries policies and ASEAN wide action plans

Benefits and lessons learned from joining the sub-regional platform: Cambodia

- Comparative analysis of the policies and legislations between Cambodia and Viet Nam, and Cambodia and Lao PDR had achieved the purpose of obtaining mutual understanding on such policy and legal frameworks for more effective cooperation in managing transboundary fishery areas, and also providing the concerned countries with useful information to reform some of their policies and update their laws
- The Sub-regional platforms enhanced the country's compliance with a number of international agreements, and enabled them to accede to the FAO Port States Measures Agreement; ratify/accede (or on the way) to the UN Fish Stock Agreement; recognize the IPOA-IUU as a basis for developing their respective NPOAs-IUU, and enact laws related to National Plan for Coastal Inspection (NCPI)
- Joining the MCS Network (Gulf of Thailand) gave the country the impetus to carry out a census of marine fishing boats (there are 7,552 boats categorized into five classes) and initiate the registration of all fishing vessels of the country
- Cambodia has organized a working group comprising officers of the Fisheries Administration and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to develop and enforce regulations to effectively manage fishing capacity
- Building on the results of the pilot project carried out by the CORIN-Asia Cambodia, the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia started to map its critical habitats, including mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs
- The FiA Gender Strategy has been adopted and a five-year strategic plan was developed in support of the country's small-scale fisheries
- EAFM, which was piloted and implemented in the country's coastal areas, would also be implemented in inland fisheries, so that the FiA staff who had been trained through the EAFM activities under the Project would continue to manage and implement the same approach in the freshwater fisheries areas

Benefits and lessons learned from joining the sub-regional platform: Thailand

- Dialogues with the other countries in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region had improved, especially on traceability of fisheries products and management of transboundary species
- Learning and understanding each other country's laws and regulations had strengthened the cooperation for joint management of fisheries in transboundary fishery areas as well as improved the cross-boundary coordination of capacities to comply with international instruments
- MOUs were established between Thailand and Cambodia, focusing on fishery management and conservation; fishery and aquaculture, while joint investments in the areas of post-harvest, trade and market expansion have been facilitated through such collaborative agreements
- A ministerial level fishery agreement was signed between Thailand and Malaysia to facilitate the sharing of information, including landings of catch by their respective fishing vessels and inspection of catch
- The agreement established between Thailand and Viet Nam at the Ministerial Level (MARD, in the case of Viet Nam) and a sub-group in fishery has been constituted, facilitating technical exchange and cooperation to deal with IUU fishing, and Thailand and Viet Nam are also deploying artificial reefs in their transboundary waters on a 50-50 cost sharing arrangement

Box 8. Summary of the lessons learned and benefits gained from the Project's sub-regional initiatives (Cont'd)

Benefits and lessons learned from joining the sub-regional platform: Myanmar

- Overall, strengthening of capacity of the organizations involved in the sub-regional cooperation has been advanced, and has provided the country the capacity to comply with the PSMA, which had already been acceded to
- The sub-regional platform has strengthened the country's ability to take part in the MCS networking and coordination for the Andaman Sea Sub-region
- Support from other development assistance programs provided to Myanmar has increased their ability and effectiveness to take part in the SEAFDEC activities, and in turn the country's participation in the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project has improved their ability to implement those other assistance programs

Benefits and lessons learned from joining the sub-regional platform: Malaysia

- The country's capacity to participate in the MCS network has been strengthened
- Malaysia is the lead or coordinating entity for a number of the regional RPOAs, specifically the RPOA-Capacity
- Learning from the other countries' experiences as well as the policies and legislations of other countries, has strengthened the country's capacity for fisheries management, for the implementation of RPOAs, as well as in complying with international instruments



momentum of regional and sub-regional initiatives (Box 9). These include: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) represented by Ms. Susana Siar; the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) at SEAFDEC by Mr. Akito Sato; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Office by Ms. Maeve Nightingale; and the UNEP/GEF/Fisheries Refugia Project represented by Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon.

V. FINDINGS FROM EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

The Leader of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Evaluation Team, Mr. Åke Nilsson, presented the summary of findings from the external independent evaluation of the Project which was conducted from July to September 2019 using various methods including desk study, interviews, and data gathering from stakeholders through questionnaires. Information was also gathered through fact-finding missions in Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Thailand. The Final Evaluation Report would be finalized in December 2019.

VI. KEY MESSAGES

The shared experiences, best practices, lessons learned from the implementation of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, and the recommendations from the participants were distilled into a set of Key Messages (Box 10) that serve as guidelines to SEAFDEC, ASEAN, Governments of the AMSs and the Partner organizations for building on the results and sustaining the initiatives of the Project.

VII. REMARKS BY FORMER SEAFDEC SECRETARY-GENERALS

Former SEAFDEC Secretary-General (2016-2019), Dr. Kom Silapajarn, highlighted the role of SEAFDEC in providing the platform for regional cooperation under the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project with the assistance of the Government of Sweden. The Project organized numerous capacity building activities that included formal training in management, scientific, technical, and operational skills. To raise the capacities of institutions, other than training their personnel, the Project facilitated the formulation of policies, strengthening of rules and regulations, and forging of cooperative agreements among AMSs so that common fishery resources and areas



Box 9. Summary of the Project's regional and sub-regional initiatives, and the commitment of partners on the regional initiatives

Commitment on potential areas of collaboration to continue the momentum of regional and sub-regional initiatives

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Building upon the achievements of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, SEAFDEC has been tapped to be an executing partner of two upcoming FAO GEF programs: 1) the “Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME),” specifically with regards to the Andaman Sea side, and; 2) the “GoTFish: Promoting the Blue Economy of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GOTFish)”
- For the “Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME),” the development of the full project document by FAO indicated that SEAFDEC will serve as one of executing partners, where SEAFDEC would be involved in two components that would carry forward some of the achievement of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. One of the components on the sustainable management on fisheries, SEAFDEC is expected to develop regional fishing capacity and provide technical advice for sustainable management of Indian mackerels, neritic tunas and anchovies including EAFM plan, co-management, combating IUU fishing and MCS. For the other component which focuses on regional mechanism for planning and monitoring the BOBLME, SEAFDEC and (sub-) regional coordination would regularly monitor, in particular the existing sub-regional mechanisms, *e.g.* MCS network
- For the new Proposal FAO/GEF under the “GoTFish: Promoting the Blue Economy of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries,” the proposed Outcome 1: Strengthened regional governance and management for the sustainability of fisheries resources in the Gulf of Thailand, has one of the expected outputs, the continuation of the SEAFDEC-Sweden related to the establishment of multi-stakeholder regional fisheries management platforms (*e.g.* transboundary national/regional government fisheries planning teams) for improved transboundary and shared stock management (*i.e.* targeting key species and fisheries - *e.g.* mackerel, bonito, anchovy, coastal fisheries, and demersal species), and updating and/or developing regionally coherent fisheries policy and legal frameworks across the GOT countries

Japanese Trust Fund (JTF)

- The JTF for SEAFDEC will start its new five-year phase from 2020, which would accommodate some of the activities initiated by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, *e.g.* provision of assistance to the eACDS pilot testing countries (*e.g.* in Myanmar and Malaysia, and others based request from the countries), stock assessment and information exchange on transboundary species, small-scale fisheries, EAFM activities (possibly in cooperation with a new USAID program), and activities on gender aspects

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- The IUCN had worked with the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project on the number of areas, especially the regional gender study and integration of gender aspects in coastal and inland communities dependent on fisheries and the aquatic habitats
- The potential areas for future collaboration between IUCN and SEAFDEC could cover activities under the BOBLME program SAP implementation phase, which comprises components on: ecosystems based approach to fisheries management and combating IUU fishing; marine management areas to protect economic species; prevention of pollution including a special focus on monitoring and control of fishing gears; support to livelihood development, strengthen gender and gender equality; and strengthening of governance at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- Under the BOBLME program SAP implementation phase, collaboration could be in the following areas:
 - o Ecosystems based approach to cover both the environment and fishery resources
 - o Promotion of guidelines for national and regional policy formulation
 - o Monitoring of the status of environment and fisheries in the Bay of Bengal
 - o Protection of iconic species
 - o Prevention of pollution, including monitoring and control of ghost fishing gears
 - o Support to livelihood development
 - o Overall support to strengthening of governance at the national, sub-regional and regional levels
 - o Translation of gender policies into action
- Other important aspects could include advancing the establishment of eco-corridors in the Gulf of Thailand to achieve both fisheries and habitat management objectives
- Initiatives on gender and integration of gender aspects in coastal and inland communities' dependent of fisheries and aquatic habitats could be continued
- The lessons from Southeast Asia could be drawn and applied in collaborative activities with the IUCN in South Asia, and *vice versa*

UNEP/GEF/Fisheries Refugia Project

- The UNEP/GEF/Fisheries *Refugia* Project collaborated with the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project for the development of the “Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region.” Such action plan is considered significant in demonstrating the joint effort of concerned countries to work together, and which could also be expanded to other sub-region, such as the South China Sea and Andaman Sea. The UNEP/GEF wishes that the Regional Action Plan would be endorsed by the SEAFDEC and/or the ASEAN mechanism.

could be jointly and effectively managed. The capacity of the region to sustainably develop and manage its fishery sector has been considerably enhanced by the Project that also strengthened and boosted the role of SEAFDEC as a policy and technical adviser to the ASEAN. Dr. Kom extended his gratitude to the staff of national, regional and international partner organizations; to the Government of Sweden for its support to the region noting the 10-year collaborative assistance from 2009 to 2019; and to the staff of SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for their

dedication to the work and valuable contributions to the success of the Project.

Former SEAFDEC Secretary-General (2009-2015), *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri* commended the Project management staff for organizing the Meeting, and extended his gratitude to all the staff of SEAFDEC and its partner organizations for their contributions to the successful implementation of the Project. He acknowledged the generous support of the Government of Sweden which started during his term

Box 10. Key Messages for sustaining the Project

On Transboundary Species

- Although several species are recognized as transboundary and shared among countries in the region, each country has sovereign rights only in its own waters, but not in other countries' waters. Thus, regional activities on and regional management of the transboundary species that has implications to other countries' EEZ would be difficult to undertake. Intervention from regional bodies/organizations is still necessary in this aspect of work.
- The SEAFDEC-Sweden Project has implemented activities at the regional and sub-regional levels, on several transboundary species, *e.g.* neritic tuna species, Indo-Pacific mackerels, anchovies, and other small pelagic species, to improve understanding of the species and to come up with science-based management of fisheries. However, there were obstacles that hindered data collection and stock assessment. These include:
 - o Some countries still have insufficient capacity as well as system of collecting data that could support the conduct of stock assessment
 - o CPUE data among countries are not harmonized, considering that CPUE should be standardized for purposes of stock assessment
 - o Limited expertise and methodologies for stock assessment of transboundary species using the data available in some countries
- Neritic tunas: The SEAFDEC-Sweden Project made use of data available in some countries for stock assessment and risk assessment of some neritic tuna species, such as longtail tuna, kawakawa, Indo-Pacific king mackerel, and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and came up with scientific-based recommendations that support the management of fisheries of the species in the respective areas. Results of these technical works have been submitted to the ASEAN for consideration in the development of future management plans of these species.
- Indo-Pacific mackerel: Results of the DNA study proved that Indo-Pacific mackerel is a transboundary resource in the Gulf of Thailand and requires regional cooperation for management. However, since the study could not come up with conclusive results on the status and migration patterns of the species, it was suggested that other technologies should be used, *e.g.* microsatellite. Nevertheless, a Regional Action Plan is being developed suggesting the need for regional collaboration to support better understanding of the species in the future.
- Suggestions:
 - o Improve the capacity of the countries in data collection and analysis of the stocks of transboundary species, by mobilizing the available expertise from other national institutions in the respective countries
 - o Continue regional cooperation for data collection and stock assessment of transboundary species in collaboration with regional organizations, including in the implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas and its SWG, the Regional Action Plan for Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand
 - o Transform the scientific findings into materials that could be easily understood by policy makers and fisheries managers, as well as fishers
 - o Seek support from organizations, *e.g.* from SEAFDEC, as well as from potential donor agencies, *e.g.* FAO, USAID, JTF, to continue the activities

On EAFM

- SEAFDEC with funding support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project and various donors facilitated the promotion of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), starting with customizing the training materials on EAFM, building the capacity for fisheries officers of the AMSs on the EAFM concept, and training of trainers so that officers of the AMSs could transfer the concept to relevant stakeholders in the countries. Subsequently after a series of training activities, SEAFDEC started applying the EAFM concept in learning sites in Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand.
- To sustain the efforts, it is necessary for the AMSs to build up their own capacity and allocate resources for the promotion of EAFM concept, and application of the concept in real situation. However, support from external agencies particularly SEAFDEC and other donors is still necessary to expedite and enhance the efficiency of the activities, *e.g.* starting from small learning sites and subsequently expanding these to larger levels.

Box 10. Key Messages for sustaining the Project (Cont'd)

On Sub-regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing

- The most important prerequisites for combating IUU fishing include consistent and strong political will, and amendment of the country's legal frameworks to comply with the requirements of relevant international instruments. In preventing the entry of IUU fish into the supply chain, there is a need to combine the measures that address different points of the supply chain where IUU products can enter. However, combating IUU fishing should also take into consideration the circumstances of the countries, *e.g.* the need for securing rights of small-scale fishers as well as the livelihood/welfare of the communities.
- With the support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, comparative studies on laws and regulations were conducted by SEAFDEC for some neighboring areas of some countries in the region. Results of such studies have been beneficial for these countries in-terms of enabling fisheries officers at the local level to obtain better understanding of other country's laws and regulations; helping fishers to avoid violating other countries' regulations; serving as reference for collaborative projects in transboundary areas; and identifying the gaps and what needs to be done to ratify relevant international instruments.
- Amendment of the countries' fisheries laws and regulations could be one of the important indicators that demonstrate their alignment with emerging initiatives and international requirements, *e.g.* the EAFM and Co-management concepts, Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention, etc. However, for some countries high-level policy decisions are also important, *e.g.* for combating IUU fishing, control of fishing efforts, moratorium on destructive fishing gears, transshipment at sea or in other country's port, etc. without necessarily amending their existing laws and regulations.
- To strengthen Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), establishment of MCS networks has been initiated with the support of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. Through this initiative, mechanisms for collaboration and information sharing among concerned agencies within and among the countries in the region have been initiated. Nevertheless, it is necessary that regional MCS mechanism should also be promoted by relevant regional organizations, particularly for the different sub-regional areas of the region.
- The Port State Measures (PSM) is considered as very effective tool for combating IUU fishing by preventing the entry of IUU fish, particularly from foreign vessels into the country. However, there is still a need to ensure that the country's legal frameworks are compliant with the PSM requirements, including capacity building of relevant authorities in the implementation of the PSM.
- The Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity was developed with support from the SEAFDEC Sweden Project upon the request of Malaysia during the ASWGF Meeting. While some countries could already implement the management of fishing capacity, but to support the Southeast Asian region in the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity as a whole, there is a need for a regional platform for the countries to enhance their understanding and improve their existing laws and regulations through sharing of experiences among countries.
- The ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) is also one of the most effective tools for combating IUU fishing. Implementation of ACDS not only enables the traceability of fish and fishery products, but also enhances international trade of fish and fishery products. Nevertheless, successful implementation of the ACDS is long process as it also requires several management systems to be put in place in the country, *e.g.* port-in port-out, catch report at sea, report at landing sites, report by processors. In order to overcome some difficulties faced in ACDS operations, *e.g.* limited wifi signal at sea, SEAFDEC would continue to promote the use of off-line technologies. Furthermore, besides implementing the ACDS in more countries in the region, the expansion of ACDS to also cover traceability of products from aquaculture and hatcheries intended for export should also be considered

In addressing cross-cutting issues at the community level

- In securing the sustainable development of the fisheries sector, there are several cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed, such as the need to enhance the capability of stakeholders to take up livelihood diversification options and to adapt to the effects of climate change for poverty alleviation. In order to address these issues, SEAFDEC Sweden Project supported some local partners, namely: Learning Institute, CORIN-Asia Cambodia, Sustainable Development Foundation, and Prince of Songkla University (PSU), to implement the relevant activities at the local community level.
- Problems encountered during the implementation of the Project at the community level:
 - o Deterioration of habitats due to habitat destruction and inadequate waste management
 - o Declining fishery resources due to overfishing and use of destructive fishing gears
 - o Inadequate knowledge and skills in mitigating the impacts of climate change, climate variability, natural hazards
 - o Insufficient information on traditional fisheries in the governmental information system
 - o Limited roles of women in fishing communities
- Interventions for the local communities:
 - o Governance: strengthening of alliance among local government agencies toward integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)
 - o Habitat protection and resources restoration: promotion of effective household garbage management; restoration of coastal habitats such as seagrass beds, mangrove forest, artificial reefs; promotion of crab bank; habitat and resource conservation campaign

Box 10. Key Messages for sustaining the Project (Cont'd)

- o Introduction of livelihood diversification opportunities to generate income and reduce illegal fishing activities: marine cage culture of aquatic species, eco-tourism, fish processing, and other options in the non-fishery sectors
- o Establishment of marketing groups and micro-credit schemes that would provide loans within the community
- o Adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change, climate variability and natural hazards, including the promotion of alternative livelihoods that take advantage of changes in climate/season, dissemination of information on the weather conditions in advance (*i.e.*, an early warning system)
- o Development of fishers' database with the participation of all groups of stakeholders
- o Strengthening community capacity to develop projects and undertake activities in collaboration with government agencies, to ensure the sustainability of operations after the completion of projects with external support
- Through the activities of SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, tangible results had been generated that improve the livelihoods of the communities. However, certain activities towards long-term sustainable management of the fishery resources need to be continued after the completion of the Project in December 2019, particularly on the application of EAFM, co-management and gender integration. In this connection, technical support from SEAFDEC and other organizations would still be necessary.

On Gender Integration

- With support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, several activities were undertaken by SEAFDEC in collaboration with other organizations and local institutions, including research on gender mainstreaming in fisheries, and development of methodologies and tools for gender analysis in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in the region. Through such activities, SEAFDEC has established close partnerships with other organizations to work on the gender dimension, and developed the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy.
- In further strengthening gender integration in fisheries, activities should be undertaken (also with support from SEAFDEC and other organizations) towards:
 - o Building the capacity of local officers on gender concept, gender mainstreaming in projects dealing with communities, and gender analysis;
 - o Establishing a pool of gender expertise in the region;
 - o Incorporating gender analysis at the community level, *e.g.* collection and analysis of data on fisheries, socio-economics, livelihood, market, etc.;
 - o Promoting the involvement of women in the development of fisheries/resources management plans;
 - o Strengthening the roles and responsibilities of women in household and community activities as well as in the society;
 - o Enhancing the opportunities of women to access and utilize assets and resources, including education, training, technical advice on entrepreneurship, and other opportunities;
 - o Ensuring that women in the fisheries sector receive recognition and benefits on their own rights; and
 - o Collecting and compiling sex-disaggregated statistics on fisheries.

On the provision of the sub-regional platforms

- The SEAFDEC-Sweden Project was implemented using a sub-regional approach that builds upon the national systems/networks of the participating countries, while cooperation among the countries was established at the sub-regional level. Such approach has led to benefits gained by the countries in addressing priority issues under particular sub-regional focuses, enhancing the effectiveness in mobilizing resources to address such priorities, while also serving as basis for the establishment of long-term arrangements between and among neighboring countries in the sub-region.
- Focusing on the Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas and Mekong Sub-region, the priority issues that has been addressed through sub-regional cooperation focused on:
 - o Combating IUU fishing, *e.g.* sharing/exchanging of information on laws, regulations and practices, and enhancing coordination/networking of initiatives among countries including MCS network
 - o Management of transboundary species, *e.g.* on data collection, sharing and analysis, and development of management measures at sub-regional level
- Moving forward to the implementation of the sub-regional approach in the future, the following aspects should be considered:
 - o Support for the formulation and implementation of projects using sub-regional approach, such as the BOBLME and Gulf of Thailand (GOTFish) in collaboration with relevant organizations
 - o Formalization of mechanisms for the different sub-regions in the areas of planning, implementation, and in monitoring/evaluation of activities addressing their priority issues
 - o Support for the development and implementation of action plans among countries to address issues that need to be addressed at sub-regional level, *e.g.* combating IUU fishing, management of transboundary species, habitat and species conservation
 - o Capacity building for countries to support activities under the sub-regional platform



of office with SEAFDEC. As regional cooperation was the hallmark of Project execution, SEAFDEC assumed the role of providing the platform for such cooperation, as well as compiling and providing guidelines for the development of regional and national policies, providing management advice, and extending technical support. The Project has considerably contributed to the pool of knowledge, which can be readily accessed by countries and organizations through SEAFDEC, which serves as a hub, repository, and source of such knowledge. As SEAFDEC continues to work in partnership with local, national, regional and international organizations, it also continues to enrich and enlarge that knowledge. He reiterated his gratitude to the partners of SEAFDEC and to the Government of Sweden for their continuing cooperation in regional fishery development programs.

VIII. CLOSING SESSION

The Counselor and Head of Development Cooperation Regional Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Sweden, *Ms. Åsa Hedén*, highlighted the important role of SEAFDEC as an intergovernmental organization that has been effectively providing support to AMSs through regional cooperation. Under various cooperative arrangements, the Project has addressed many critical transboundary

issues and challenges, and served as the platform for governments, regional and international agencies, and non-government organizations to meet the challenges and resolve the issues. She was pleased with the achievements of the Project, which she noted has been the largest that the Government of Sweden has supported. She expressed the Government's appreciation for the excellent work and remarkable cooperation of everyone who has been involved in the Project. She envisaged that the results and lessons from the Project would be taken up and propagated by the development partners. She then gave a special gesture of gratitude to SEAFDEC staff for their exemplary work at organizing this Meeting and helping oversee the implementation of the Project.

The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, expressed her appreciation to all delegates for their active participation and for sharing valuable insights. She expressed SEAFDEC's appreciation for the strong support from the Government of Sweden, particularly in providing financial support to SEAFDEC for the implementation of the Project throughout the past seven years. She also congratulated the AMSs for the good progress made in improving the management of fishery resources and fishing capacity, and cooperation within the Southeast Asian region. She encouraged all



the delegates to make use of the information gained from the Project to continue the actions that would contribute to the sustainability of the fishery resources. She enjoined the delegates to carry the messages concluded

at this Meeting back to their respective Governments to continue working and sustaining the initiatives made by the Project. She wished everyone a safe journey home and declared the Meeting closed.



Program

30 October 2019

- 08:30-09:00 *Registration*
- 09:00-09:30 **Opening Session:**
- Welcome remarks by *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC
 - Speech by *Ms. Åsa Hedén*, Head of Development Cooperation Regional Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Sweden (Bangkok)
- 09:30 – 10:00 **Overview of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project**
- By *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Manager
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Group Photo and Refreshment*
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Session 1: Sustainable Utilization of Transboundary Fisheries Resources**
- Facilitator: *Dr. Worawit Wachana*, Policy and Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat
- Introduction by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn* and *Mr. Mohammad Faisal bin Md Saleh*, MFRDMD
- Panelists:
1. *Mr. Matzani Haji Juna*, Brunei Darussalam (Neritic tuna)
 2. *Ms. Praulai Nootmorn*, Thailand (Neritic tuna)
 3. *Ms. Ratanawalee Phoonsawat*, Thailand (Mackerel)
 4. *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan Bt Mahadie Chan*, Malaysia (Mackerel)
 5. *Mr. Parnpan Worranut*, Thailand (EAFM)
 6. *Ms. Panitnard Weerawat*, TD (EAFM)
- Annotation: This Session provides five minutes for each Panelist to describe their respective countries' experiences and national actions that have been taken in relation to the Project deliverables.
- Panel Discussion:
- How the capacity of stakeholders have been improved and the actions to be uptaken by the countries
 - Constraints and opportunities for sustainable utilization of transboundary species and future plans of action
- 12:00 -13.30 *Lunch*
- 13.30-13.40 **Session 2: Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation for Management of Fishing Capacity Combating IUU Fishing**
- Introduction by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Manager

13.40-14.40 **Session 2: Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation for Management of Fishing Capacity Combating IUU Fishing**

Panel 1: Understanding the key elements to improve systems to monitor, record and control the fisheries

Facilitator: *Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan*, Technical Expert from SEAFDEC/TD

Introduction by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Manager

Panelists:

1. *Mr. Nguyen Thanh Binh*, Viet Nam
2. *Mr. Ly Vuthy*, Cambodia
3. *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan bt. Mahadie Chan*, Malaysia
4. *Dr. Kamonpan Awaiwanont*, Thailand
5. *Ms. Nilar Kywe*, Myanmar
6. *Mr. Turman Hardianto Maha*, Indonesia

Annotation: This Panel is allocated 45 minutes with each Panelist allowed to have five minutes to describe their respective countries' experiences and national actions that have been taken in relation to the Project deliverables.

Panel Discussion:

- How the capacity of stakeholders have been improved and the actions to be uptaken by the countries
- Constraints and opportunities for management of fishing capacity and future plans of action

14.40-15.30 **Session 2: Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation for Management of Fishing Capacity Combating IUU Fishing**

Panel 2: Strengthening MCS networks

Facilitator: *Mr. Sutee Rajruchithong*, Technical Expert

Introduction by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Manager

Panelists:

1. *Mr. Chhuon Kimchhea*, Cambodia (Gulf of Thailand Sub-region)
2. *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan Bt Mahadie Chan*, Malaysia (Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea Sub-regions)
3. *Ms. Nilar Kywe*, Myanmar (Andaman Sea Sub-region)
4. *Mr. Turman Hardianto Maha*, Indonesia (Andaman Sea Sub-region)

Annotation: Each Panelist is allowed 10 minutes to provide their respective countries' experiences and national actions, and uptakes in relation to the Project deliverables.

Panel Discussion:

- How the capacity of stakeholders have been improved and the actions to be uptaken by the countries
- Constraints and opportunities for strengthening of MCS networks, and future actions

- 15.30-16.00 *Refreshment*
- 16.00-17.00 **Session 2: Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation for Management of Fishing Capacity Combating IUU Fishing**
- Panel 3: Regional initiatives on eACDS and fisheries traceability**
- Facilitator: *Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan*, Technical Expert from SEAFDEC/TD
- Panelists:
1. *Mr. Muhammad Jumkhairun Haji Jumat*, Brunei Darussalam
2. *Mr. Huy Huynh*, Viet Nam
3. *Ms. Nilar Kywe*, Myanmar
4. *Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich*, TD
- Annotation: This Panel is allocated 45 minutes with each Panelist is allowed 10 minutes to provide their respective countries' experiences and national actions uptaken in relation to eACDS and improvement of traceability systems
- Panel discussion: What are the priorities problems, constraints, and challenges and actions to be addressed and/or undertaken in the future.
- 18:00-20:00 *Reception Dinner hosted by SEAFDEC*
- 31 October 2019**
- 09.00-10.30 **Session 3: Building Awareness and Capability on Livelihoods Diversification options and Adaptation to Climate Change for Poverty alleviation**
- Facilitator: *Ms. Saisunee Chaksuin*, Gulf of Thailand Sub-region Coordinator
- Panelists:
1. *Mr. Srey Marona*, Learning Institute
2. *Dr. Khov Kuong*, CORIN-Asia Cambodia
3. *Ms. Varuntorn Kaewtankam*, Sustainable Development Foundation
- Annotation: This Session is given 10 minutes to provide a short overview of the subject. The local partners, namely: Learning Institute, CORIN-Asia Cambodia, and Sustainable Development Foundation could take 15 minutes each to share information and insights on the challenges, constraints, problems in the project implementation, and the key lessons learned from the activities including the outcomes.
- 10.30-11.00 *Refreshment*
- 11.00-12.15 **Session 4: Why and what have been undertaken in gender integration?**
- Facilitator: *Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat*, Technical Expert of SEAFDEC
- Introduction by *Ms. Jariya Sornkliang*, SEAFDEC-Sweden Gender Focal Person and for TD

Panelists:

1. *Ms. Dongdavanh Sibounthong*, Lao PDR
2. *Ms. May Thanda Wint*, Myanmar
3. *Ms. Mildred M. Buazon*, Philippines
4. *Ms. Susana Siar*, FAO/RAP
5. *Mr. Srey Marona*, Learning Institute
6. *Ms. Varuntorn Kaewtankam*, SDF

Annotation: Each Panelist is allowed 5 minutes to talk on their experiences, constraints, and challenges. Each partner organization will have 5 minutes to present the rationale for integrating gender into the implementation of the programs and projects, and the key results from such integration.

12.15-13.30

Lunch

13.30-14.30

Session 5: Looking Back – Looking Forward: The major advantages and the usefulness of a sub-regional platform

Facilitator: *Dr. Magnus Torell*, Advisor

Panelists:

1. *Mr. Buoy Roitana*, Cambodia (Gulf of Thailand sub-region)
2. *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan bt. Mahadie Chan*, Malaysia(Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea sub-regions)
3. *Dr. Kamonpan Awaiwanont*, Thailand (Gulf of Thailand sub-region)
4. *Dr. Kyaw Kyaw*, Myanmar (Andaman sea sub-region)

Annotation: Each Panelist is allowed 5 minutes to describe the significant results of MOAs and MOUs between and among countries, and the benefits and lessons learned from the establishment of sub-regional platforms. In addition, partner organizations, *i.e.* FAO, JTF, IUCN, UNEP/Fisheries *Refugia* as donors and regional organizations, would deliver short statements (5 minutes each) on the potential areas of collaboration to continue the momentum of the regional and sub-regional initiatives, and activities in the region.

14.30-15.00

Key Finding results from the Final Evaluation

By the Evaluation Team through Skype Call

15.00-15.30

Refreshment

15.30-15.45

Summary of the key messages from the Meeting

15.45-16.00

Remarks by Former SEAFDEC Secretary-Generals

By *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* and *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*

16.00-16.20

Commitments: Each Participant shall state one commitment and three major challenges to be addressed based on respective countries' perspectives

16.20-16.30

Closing of the Meeting

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Highlights of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project

SEAFDEC implemented the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project "Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia" from 2013 until 2019, with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The Project was meant to support the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in the implementation of regional actions for the "sustainable use of aquatic resources and reduce vulnerability to climate change by coastal/rural (fishing) communities in the Southeast Asian region," through regional and sub-regional cooperation as well as in communities with regional and national partners.



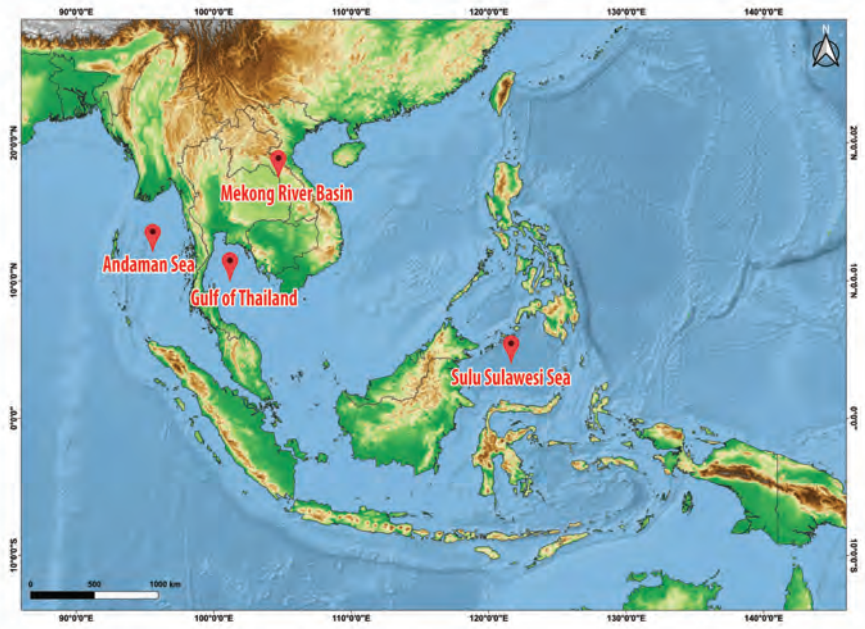
Signing of the Agreement to implement "Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia" in 2013



Under the Project, several activities had been implemented to build up the capacity of the AMSs. The specific output objectives include:

- Output Objective 1:** Capacity built for integration of habitat and fisheries management, and adaptation to climate change
- Output Objective 2:** Capacity built and system improved for the management of fishing capacity (monitoring, record and control)
- Output Objective 3:** Capacity built and policy development processes improved for drafting and implementation of regional and sub-regional agreements

The coverage of this Project encompasses four sub-regions of Southeast Asia, namely: the Andaman Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Mekong River Basin, and the Sulu Sulawesi Seas, in collaboration with partners.



Sustainable Use and Management of Transboundary Fishery Resources and their Ecosystems

Through the Project's capacity building activities, the AMSs stakeholders at regional, sub-regional and local levels, were able to:

- improve their awareness and knowledge on habitat and fisheries management
- enhance their system of collection, analysis and provision of reliable data and information on transboundary fishery resources that had been used as science-based information and technical advice for management actions in the target areas
- participate in activities toward key achievements which include:





Improved scientific knowledge and research capacities in neritic tuna fisheries through the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Neritic Tunas

The SWG has played an important role in providing scientific information as basis for the development of management plans, and improving the assessment of neritic tunas to understand the stock status, distribution and migration paths in the Southeast Asian waters.



Successful joint study on the fisheries stock structure of Indo-Pacific mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*) in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region



- Enhanced capacity building on stock assessment, fish larvae identification and EAFM
- DNA analysis of fish samples from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, that would serve as basis for formulation of regional action plan for the sustainable fisheries of *R. brachysoma* in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region
- Understanding of the stock structure would serve as inputs for the relevant activities on monitoring, control and surveillance network in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region

Facilitating Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation on the Monitoring, Record and Control of Fisheries

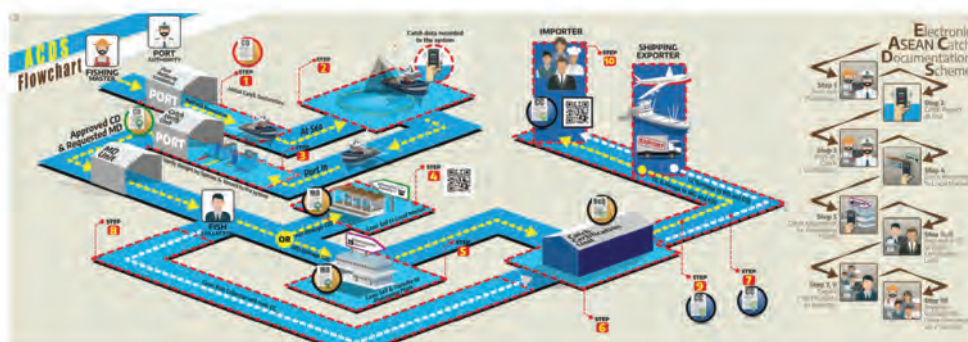


Strengthened fisheries cooperation through regional and bilateral dialogues involving the Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, and Mekong River Basin sub-regional platform, on the management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing, has provided the opportunity for AMSs to:

- discuss fisheries-related issues
- share updated national laws and regulations in compliance with international instruments (e.g. UNCLOS, UNSFA, PSMA) for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and resources
- share relevant information (e.g. fishing vessels registration, licensing system, procedures of recording landing catch by foreign fishing vessels documentation)
- pool efforts and resources for the monitoring and control of fishing activities to reduce IUU fishing through the promotion of:
 - eACDS
 - port monitoring
 - PSM implementation
 - MCS networks

Supporting the development of Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS)

The ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) was developed as an effective tool in fisheries management, specifically for improving the traceability of marine capture fisheries and preventing the entry of IUU fish into the supply chain of the AMSs. The ACDS could enhance the traceability of fish and fishery products from point of catch to plate of consumers. The electronic ACDS (eACDS) was established as an application software that links all information and data in the supply chain, and could be managed using web-based and mobile applications.



Establishment of Sub-regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Networks for the Gulf of Thailand, Northern Andaman Sea, and Southern Andaman Sea Sub-regions



The MCS networks aim to:

- provide opportunity to the countries to share information needed to improve transboundary fisheries management and control of fishing efforts and surveillance on sub-regional and bilateral platforms
- enhance coordination among key agencies
- facilitate the management of fishing activities and combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian waters



Fishing gear assessment for the management of transboundary fisheries resources

- formulation of Action Plans to address overcapacity and management of fishing efforts in dealing with IUU fishing through effective monitoring and control of fishing activities
- confirmation of the legal status of fishing operations, and ensuring that catches are properly recorded for the traceability of fish and fishery products throughout the supply chain



Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing for Local Communities to Enhance Resilience to Changes



Capacity building activities were organized for local communities fishers, women and fish farmers in partnership with non-governmental organizations, (e.g. CORIN-Asia Cambodia, Learning Institute in Cambodia, Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) in Thailand, CORIN-Asia Myanmar,). The activities focused on livelihood opportunities, poverty alleviation, and restoration of fishery resources and habitats, with the infusion of elements on gender and youth empowerment.

Raising awareness of Community Fisheries (CFI) around the Tonle Sap Lake and coastal provinces of Cambodia had enhanced their capacity in ecosystems management and livelihood development, and improved recognition on the role of women in fisheries.



Collaboration has been fostered among local stakeholders, e.g. fishing communities, local administrators, and government agencies by providing support to local initiatives on sustainable fisheries management, fisheries livelihood diversification, conservation and rehabilitation of aquatic resources, improvement of social well-being, waste management, and adaptation to climate change.



Raising Awareness of Gender in Fisheries

Gender perspectives had been instilled into SEAFDEC towards the promotion of gender equality in the fisheries sector.

- institutional capacity building on Integration of gender in fisheries
- promotion of the Regional Synthesis and Gender Analysis Toolkit
- development and promotion of the Policy Brief "Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia"



The **Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia** has been developed and promoted as part of the efforts to strengthen regional cooperation on the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), and enhance understanding of the SSF Guidelines.



Improvement of labor standards in fishing and enhancement of the overall capacity of the fisheries sector to comply with fisheries management measures at national, bilateral, regional and international levels



The adoption of the **SEAFDEC Gender Strategy** by the SEAFDEC Council during its Fifty-first Meeting in 2019 demonstrated the support of the SEAFDEC Member Countries in promoting SEAFDEC as a gender-responsive organization that strives to mainstream and integrate gender perspectives into the organization, and in its programs, projects, and activities ensuring that men, women, and the youth at all levels, could access equitable benefits in the sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture.



Enhancing Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation

Platforms had been provided through bilateral dialogues at sub-regional level covering the Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, and Mekong River Basin, which facilitate the discussions on:

- transboundary and sub-regional cooperation in fisheries and habitat management
- measures to monitor and control fishing efforts and landings across borders
- cooperation between countries and among sub-regions.

The countries gained understanding of respective national laws and regulations as well as strategies and actions in the management of fishing capacity. The issues and solutions of respective country were discussed in reducing IUU fishing in Southeast Asian Waters.

As the bilateral dialogues strengthened the cooperation among countries in different sub-regions, MOUs for collaborative arrangements had been signed between Thailand and Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR, and Thailand and Myanmar.



The support provided to the **Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN)** enhanced the coordination and communication between SEAFDEC and Member Countries. The RFPN members have played active roles in the development of strategies to promote fisheries policy dialogues, enhancement of regional and sub-regional cooperation among Member Countries, and in follow up with their respective countries of the commitments towards the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action.





Influencing the Regional Policy Formulation

During the period of implementation of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, several policy frameworks have been developed and promoted that are linked to international and regional cooperation with the ASEAN, especially through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP).

The result of the Project were reported to the ASEAN policy mechanisms, e.g. the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi), to strengthen regional cooperation and contribute to the ASEAN Community building. Also, several achievements of the project have been reported to the ASEAN mechanism, e.g. RPOA-Neritic Tunas, RPOA-Capacity, eACDS, Combating IUU fishing, and Regional Approach for SSF.





SEAFDEC-Sweden Project:
Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-Being
in Southeast Asia (2013-2019)