

SPECIAL REPORT

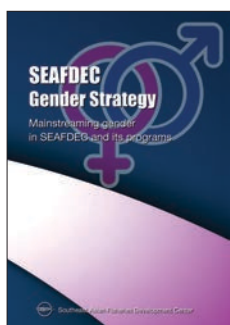
SEAFDEC Initiatives on Mainstreaming Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Southeast Asian Region by SEAFDEC/TD

Throughout the past decades, the importance of gender equality and equity has been well recognized by several international instruments and policy frameworks, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). In this regard, SEAFDEC also recognizes the need for increased awareness and mainstreaming of gender in fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region.

SEAFDEC Gender Strategy

To support the integration of gender perspectives in fisheries and aquaculture within SEAFDEC and its Member Countries, SEAFDEC proposed during the Fiftieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Siem Reap, Cambodia in March 2018 to develop a gender strategy. SEAFDEC drafted the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy in consultation with the SEAFDEC Gender Focal Persons (SGFP) from Secretariat, TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD during the “Inter-Departmental Meeting on Development of SEAFDEC Gender Strategy” in September 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. Subsequently, the draft of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy was presented at the Forty-first Program Committee Meeting in November 2018 and was approved at the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in March 2019 in Surabaya, Indonesia.

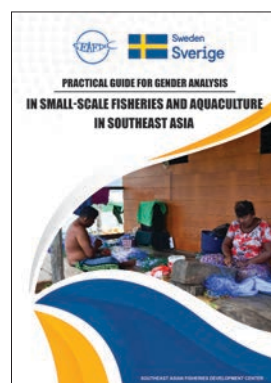
Through the promotion of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy, SEAFDEC strives to mainstream and integrate gender perspectives into the organization well as in its programs, projects, and activities to ensure that women and men access equitable benefits in the sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture. The five main strategies include 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.



SEAFDEC Gender Strategy

Practical Guide for Gender Analysis

Subsequently, the Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia (Practical Guide) was developed to support the implementation of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy. The Practical Guide was developed during a series of experts consultation workshops in 2018-2019 organized by SEAFDEC with support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project and with the active involvement of gender focal points from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), SGFPs, gender experts, and partner organizations. The Practical Guide is meant to assist program/project managers, researchers, and fishery officers of the AMSs and fisheries-related organizations including SEAFDEC in the conduct of gender analysis to obtain successful gender mainstreaming in programs and projects on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region. It could also be used to assist the countries that still do not have a framework on gender in place such as conducting gender analysis to support in the development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of gender-sensitive and gender-responsive programs and projects.



Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia

Capacity Building Activities

With support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, SEAFDEC organized the following training courses and workshops on gender to enhance the understanding as well as

develop the capacity of SEAFDEC staff on gender aspects and mainstreaming:

- Gender Learning Workshop with OXFAM Thailand (21-22 June 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand)
 - explore the significance and meaning of gender
 - exchange experiences on gender and women in the context of fisheries
- In-house Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries Sector for Staff of Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (26-28 July 2016 in Nakhon Nayok Province, Thailand)
 - raise the understanding on gender and relevant concepts
 - increase the understanding of different tools for gender mainstreaming in the project cycle
 - promote gender to apply the concept in work and life
- In-house Intensive Training Workshop on Gender Analysis for SEAFDEC Staff (24-26 January 2017 in Phetchaburi Province, Thailand)
 - enhance the capacity on utilizing the gender analysis tools (sex-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive indicators, gender budgeting, gender in M&E and reporting, among others)
- Gender Sensitivity Training Course for SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department Staff (4-5 April 2017 and 1-2 May 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand)
 - raise the awareness of SEAFDEC staff on gender
 - promote gender equity and equality in the organization
- Research and Guidance Workshop for Using Toolkit for Gender Analysis in Coastal Communities: Orientation to SEAFDEC data collectors (18 to 22 September 2017 in Trat Province, Thailand)
 - mentor the data collectors in conducting gender analysis
- Data Analysis Workshop on Gender Dimension in Fishery Management in Coastal Communities (6-9 February 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand)
 - increase understanding of gender and social inequality issues
 - provide assistance in analyzing gender issues based on the data collected from the field
- Intensive training on Gender Analysis for SEAFDEC staff and Gender Analysis in Fisheries Sector Workshop for SEAFDEC Gender Working Group (5-8 March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand)
 - enhance the capacity on applying the methods and tools of gender analysis in the fisheries sector

Gender Study

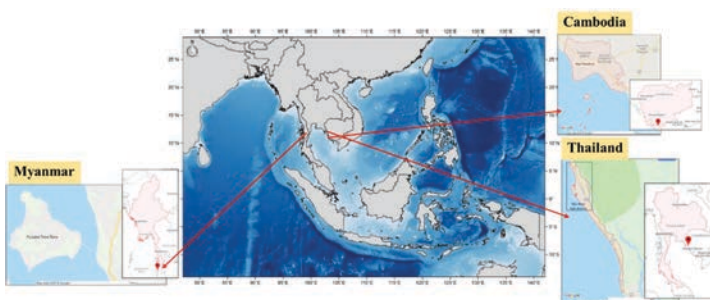
Furthermore, with support from the Government of Sweden and in partnership with IUCN/MFF and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), SEAFDEC conducted the regional gender study in 2017-2018. The gender study explored the gender patterns in coastal and marine resources management to improve the understanding of the state of women and men in environmental decision-making and structural challenges that prevent equitable opportunities for women and men. The study sites include Kep Province in Cambodia, Kawthaung Province in Myanmar, and Trat Province in Thailand.

The study found that, generally, both women and men were involved in various fisheries-related activities. Fishing is a male domain and women support men in their fishing endeavor at sea by doing onshore activities, such as cleaning nets and vessels, mending fishing gear, and segregating, processing, and marketing the catch. However, in terms of decision-making and land ownership, women had less involvement; and the household leaders are mostly men because it is believed that men make better decision than women. Therefore, there is a need to empower women to ensure gender equity and equality in fisheries community development.

Way Forward

For effective implementation of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy, the Action Plan was developed during the Workshop on the Development of the Action Plan for SEAFDEC Gender Strategy in May 2019 in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The gender-sensitive actions and indicators of the respective gender strategies were agreed by the SGFPs during the Workshop. Subsequently, the progress of such indicators would be compiled and submitted by respective Departments to SEAFDEC Secretariat for inclusion in SEAFDEC Annual Reports.

Furthermore, the draft of the Practical Guide could be downloaded from <http://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6149> by the AMSs and relevant users for testing and evaluation. Before the final version is made available for public use, SEAFDEC would test the Practical Guide in the field to validate its recommendations and gender analysis methods and tools. With the goals of field testing Practical Guide as well as supporting the implementation of the FAO SSF Guidelines, a new project “Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia” with funding support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) would be implemented by SEAFDEC in 2020-2021. The activities of the Project would be conducted in selected small-scale fisheries and aquaculture communities in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand.



Site of Regional Gender Study in Southeast Asia by SEAFDEC