

**REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TOWARD STRATEGIES  
AND ACTION PLANS FOR SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF  
COASTAL FISH STOCKS IN TROPICAL ASIA**

**by  
International Center for living Aquatic Resources Management  
(ICLARM)**

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

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**1. COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS**

Various developing Member Countries (DMCs)

Bangladesh - Department of Fisheries, Fisheries Research Institute

Indonesia - Directorate General of Fisheries, Central Research Institute of Fisheries

Malaysia - Department of Fisheries, Fisheries Research Institute

Philippines - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, University of the Philippines in the Visayas

Sri Lanka - Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, National Aquatic Resources Agency

Thailand - Department of Fisheries, Southern Marine Fisheries Development Center

Vietnam - Ministry of Fisheries, Research Institute of Marine Products

**2. DONOR**

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**3. DURATION**

3 years (1997-2000)

**4. OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) is to assist selected DMCs, in a catalytic mode, in improving the management and sustainable utilization of their coastal fisheries. Specifically, the RETA aims to:

- a) develop resource databases and enhance management information in order to meet the resource management needs of selected DMCs;
- b) develop appropriate strategies and action plans to assist selected DMCs in rehabilitating their coastal stocks and sustaining the resulting improved benefits; and
- c) strengthen the capabilities of selected DMC institutions in coastal fisheries assessment and management.

## **5. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION**

The results of ADB RETA No. 5651 (Sustainable Exploitation of Tropical Coastal Fish Stocks in Asia) acknowledged that the multiplicity of issues impacting coastal fisheries in the region requires action on a broad front. Success in reversing or mitigating these issues will be highly premised on institutional capabilities and resources mobilization in the DMCs, which face considerable technical, manpower and financial constraints in responding to the host of issues. In this regard, RETA No. 5651 has successfully identified key elements for an expected regional collaboration. The consensus achieved is that these elements (duly incorporated and for implementation in this project) can catalytically assist the DMCs in identifying, prioritizing and orchestrating the interventions to many of the issues at hand. This RETA supports the objectives of ICLARM and ADB as it would address environmental and natural resources management. The regional cooperation is cost-effective in addressing common issues in the management of coastal fish stocks in the participating DMCs. The Project will have an impact on the management and protection of fishery resources in South and Southeast Asia. It will contribute to scientific advancement in stock assessment and development of fishery resource databases which could be applied extensively developing countries for improved management and sustainable utilization of coastal fisheries resources.

## **6. PROJECT COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

Target outputs for the proposed RETA will be generated via the implementation of two interrelated components, namely:

- a) Research, Information and Training; and
- b) Management Policy and Planning.

The Research, Information and Training Component consists of three main tasks, namely, database development (Task 1), the conduct of regional and national training for DMC scientists in the required fields of expertise for successful RETA implementation (Task 2), and analyses of the compiled data and related information at the national and regional level (Task 3). The Management Policy Planning Component consists of three main tasks:

- a) for the conduct of national and regional workshops (Task 4),
- b) elaboration of national strategies and action plans for participating DMCs (Task 5), and
- c) the development of strategies and action plans at the regional level (Task 6).

The main outputs of the RETA activities are:

- a) TRAWLBASE - a consolidated regional resource database and related documentation;
- b) a regional training/workshop proceedings detailing the results of the data analyses and reviews conducted at the national and regional levels (including resource/management trends and opportunities;
- c) reports detailing the national strategies and action plans for each of the participating DMCs; and
- d) a report detailing regional strategies and action plans for rehabilitation of coastal stocks/fisheries.