

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Fisheries Administration

Experience and direction in the implementation of the agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, (UNFSA)

The Fisheries Administration has implemented the following activities related to the UNFSA Agreement:

(i) Experience in sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change, including:

1) Assessing the impact of climate change on fisheries:

- Collaborated with the Ministry of Environment to implement the CamAdapt project (FAO support fund and technical assistant) in the coastal provinces, which evaluated 35 community fishery management plans. The results indicated that some climate change affects the community fishery;
- Studied catch monitoring at eight landing sites in coastal provinces. The three-year study 2021-2023 results show that Cambodian Marine Fisheries still has potential;
- Studied coral reefs and seagrass beds in coastal areas. The results confirmed that there were 2,882 hectares of coral reef and 13,890 hectares of seagrass beds along the coast of Cambodia.

2) Addressing the impacts of climate change on fisheries

- In Inland water: the delay in the onset of the flood seasons, longer, drier dry seasons, shorter, wetter raining seasons;
- In Marine water: greater storm frequency and intensity, and sea level rise
- Deployed 1,189 artificial boxes or concrete blocks in the marine fisheries management areas (MFMA), and fisheries communities' conservation areas;
- Established four marine fisheries management areas with a total area of 64,235 hectares and two fisheries refuge areas with a total area of 1,399 hectares in coastal provinces;
- Developed technical guidelines and provided training materials related to improving the livelihoods of fishers for marine aquaculture with economic value, and developed guidelines on the construction of infrastructure safeguarding for fishers to combat climate change through the implementation of the CamAdapt project.

3) Accounting for cumulative impacts

- Dry up aquaculture ponds, dry season broodstock refuge ponds, fisheries conservation areas (ex. Boeung Tonle Chmar (Ramsar Site), Inland fish habitats, deep pool along the Mekong River, low water quality;
- Damaging, reduced, or unsuitable fish habitat, changes in species' relative abundance;
- Reduce the illegal trawling activities in the marine fisheries management areas.

4) Application of an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the face of climate change

- Piloted the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in Community Fisheries management areas between Kampot-Preah Sihanouk province, and published a report on the SEAFDEC website (Newsletter);
- Piloted the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in Community Fisheries management area in Boeung Tonle Chmar (Ramsar Site, adjusted to Tonle Sap Lake), and prepared the management plan (FAO support fund and technical assistant);
- Prevent and suppress the use of destructive fishing gear in coastal areas (awareness, dissemination the circulars and regulations);
- Issued the closing fishing of mackerel fish, blue swimming crab, and blood cockle in areas or at specific periods of times/seasons in coastal areas;
- Protected critical habitats such as seagrass, coral reef, and seabed resources;
- Restored 224.5 hectares of mangrove forest, contributing to the carbon credit;
- Created more alternative livelihood activities for fishers to improve the livelihood of the local communities; and
- Strengthened governance through improving collaboration between stakeholders, both national and international, including government institutions, NGOs, and development partners, to participate in the sustainable management and conservation of fisheries resources.

5) Socio-economic and cultural participation in sustainable fisheries management in the context of climate change risk

- Reviewed the achievements of the community fisheries;
- Established the new marine ecology system (C-lant artificial seaweed cultivation) with the participation of local communities, researchers and competent fisheries officials;
- Contributed to the job creation for local communities in coastal areas.

(ii) Lessons learned, best practices, and challenges in sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change

- Cambodia is committed to the international obligation in the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stock (UNFSA), which Cambodia already ratified transboundary fish species through its participation in the preparation and implementation of action plans with SEAFDEC;
- Conservation, management and development of fisheries resources is a priority set out in the draft New Law on fisheries and some legal documents, as well as the development of a marine fisheries management plan;
- Restoration of important aquatic habitats, such as mangrove reforestation, seagrass, and coral reefs protection such as the establishment of fisheries' conservation areas, is a key activity in fisheries' resource management;
- Integrated EAFM's management plans with concerning stakeholders in both Inland and Marine fisheries;
- Integrated CFi and/or CFR management plan;
- Budget and technical assistance from various donors are very essential;
- Extents public awareness of climate change impact, and the climate change adaptation programme;
- Capacity building program for fisheries officials and related institutions.

(iii) Actions needed to further strengthen sustainable fisheries management in the face of climate change, including addressing particular challenges faced by developing countries through capacity-building under Part VI of the Agreement.

- Strengthen law enforcement through investigation, deter, and suppression of fishery offenses;
- Strengthen management of fishing vessels through registration, issue of fishing licenses, installation of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), and/or GSM system;
- Implement and monitor the MFMA management plan;
- Continue to deploy 7,000 artificial concrete blocks in the next five years, 2024-2028, and plan to establish two Marine Fisheries Management Areas for coral reef and seagrass areas;
- Continue to collaborate and cooperate with NGOs, the private sector, and community fishery to implement mangrove management and reforestation activities;
- Enhance the activity of development of additional livelihoods in the community fisheries through a capacity-building program;
- Build the standard fish landing site or port to adapt to climate change;
- Seek for the assistant for Extents public awareness of the climate change impact programme and the climate change adaptation programme for both inland and marine fisheries; and
- Seek for Capacity building program for fisheries officials and related institutions.

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