



**PROJECT DOCUMENT
 ACHIEVEMENT FOR YEAR 2019**

Project id: 20706004

Program Categories:	ASEAN-SEAFDEC ASSP and FCG Mechanism		
Project Title:	SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II		
Strategy No.:	I	Total Duration:	2018-2019
Lead Department:	Secretariat	Lead Country:	None
Donor/Sponsor:	EU through CITES Secretariat	Total Donor Budget:	USD 90,000
Project Partner:	None	Budget for 2020:	USD 0
Project leader:	Worawit Wanchana	Involved Country	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

PART I: OVERALL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Brief Project Description

In Southeast Asia, the recent listing of commercially captured shark and ray species in the CITES Appendices has led to concerns about the difficulties in assessing the status of sharks stocks and in planning and implementing management measures for sharks. SEAFDEC was asked by its Member Countries to address such concerns. Moreover, sharks in Southeast Asia are considered as non-target catch. Even though the Southeast Asian waters have one of the richest elasmobranch diversity (sharks, rays, and skates), the status of these resources and their utilization are still largely underdetermined due to insufficient data on catch, landings at species level, and trade as well as limited information on biological parameters of many elasmobranch species. SEAFDEC has initiated regional activities to improve shark conservation/management in Southeast Asia.

In 2015, with the fund support from EU through CITES Secretariat, SEAFDEC carried out a one-year regional project on sharks and rays data collection in relevant countries of the ASEAN. The project consisted of: information compilation on sharks data collection; organization of workshops and training sessions on sharks species identification for enumerators; recording of landing data at species level; data validation, mid-term project evaluation; and final review of national and regional reports.

2. Background and Justification

Regional attempts have been made by SEAFDEC to assist the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in improving the system of compiling their national statistics of sharks and rays through strengthening national expertise of the AMSs for identification and compilation of biological data on sharks and rays. Regional activities on sharks in Southeast Asia emphasizes on improvement of data and information collection for commercially exploited aquatic species of sharks, starting from a series of events since 2011. Previously, SEAFDEC had carried out in 2015 a one-year regional project on sharks and rays data collection in six (6) participating countries totally involving 13 landing sites of data collection with the funding support from EU through CITES Secretariat. The project started with preparation of the SOP for data collection on shark, and undertaking activities that include national workshops and training sessions on sharks and rays species identification for enumerators, recording of landing data at species level, validation of data, mid-term evaluation meeting for data collection, and final meeting to review the national report and finalize the regional report for the one-year regional project (2015 to 2016). Since the conduct of a regional study by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in 2002, information on shark/ray landing in the region was successfully updated by the one-year data collection conducted during 2015 to 2016. The results from the one-year data collection in 2015 was very useful for the participating country including Thailand to finalize their first National Plan of

Action on Conservation and Management of Sharks (Thailand NOPA-Shark), as well as to be use as a basis for the conduct of stock assessment study in Southeast Asian region.

Building upon the experiences and feedback from previous activities implemented during 2015 to 2016, the Phase II continues to support ASEAM Member States in fulfilling CITES provision for trade of commercially-aquatic species listed in Appendix II. This will be implemented in a targeted and needs-based manner. By assisting Parties of CITES who have more comprehensive data sets and information available for making the NDFs, the project will also help in establishing best practice examples for the region. Simultaneously, for those Parties in the region that have no or little available, because no or insufficient data has been collected on catches of CITES-listed sharks species, the project will support primary data collection to make sure that all Parties in the region are able to be robust NDFs in the future

3. Project Overall Objectives, Outcomes, Outputs, Indicators and Activities

3.1 Objectives, Outcome and Output of the Project

Objective	Outcomes	Outputs	Activities
Objective 1 Improve national and regional statistics on shark landing	Outcome 1 National Statistic improvement on shark/ray landing	Output 1.1 Increased the capacity of the local enumerators of 4 information-poor Parties of CITES for further improvement of the national statistics towards data availability for assessment of stock status of CITES listed shark species Output 1.2 Data sets from the results of the one-year data collection in the information-poor Parties	Activity 1.1 National workshops for training of local enumerators for 4 information-poor Parties (Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam) Activity 1.2 One-year collection at selected landing sites of the information-poor Parties (Cambodia and Myanmar)
Objective 2 Develop regional reference for supporting development of shark NDF	Outcome 2 Regional references for development of national NDF	Output 2 Report of the national workshop to support development of national NDF for 3 Parties	Activities 2 National workshops to support development of national NDF for 3 Parties (Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand)
Objective 3 Disseminate one-year shark data collection at regional and international fora (e.g. CITES CoP18 side event, regional meeting, etc)	Outcome 3.1 Exchange information with other ASEN Member States, as well as with other countries at the CITES CoO18 Outcome 3.2 Regional references on shark landing data in Southeast Asia	Output 3.1 Dissemination of preliminary result from the one-year data collection on shark landing in the region Output 3.2 Terminal report of project	Activity 3.1 Participation of project staff at CITES CoP18 Activity 3.2 Development of project report to be submitted to CITES Secretariat

3.2 Overall Scope/Description of Project

Activity	Description
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Activity 1.1 National workshops for training of local enumerators for 4 information-poor Parties (Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam)	The national workshops will be organized to initiate the process for continuing one-year data collection of the support from the project to information-poor Parties (Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam). The workshop also aims to disseminate the data set from the previous project support data collection during 2015 to 2016 in 6 participating countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam)
Activity 1.2 One-year collection at selected landing sites of the information-poor Parties (Cambodia and Myanmar)	This activity supports the information-poor Parties (Cambodia and Myanmar) to collect shark landing data at species level in selected landing sites. It is envisaged that the countries can use the result as a basis for continuing their respective efforts for improvement of data collection on shark landing by recording at species level. And at the same time, capacity of the fisheries officials responsible for collecting landing data on shark can be enhanced. Validation of the data collected by the participating countries will be made by the technical experts of SEAFDEC MFRDMD and TD.
Activities 2 National workshops to support development of national NDF for 3 Parties (Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand)	In order to have regional references on development of shark NDF, successful case or experience based on national initiatives to develop a species specific NDF can be documented and packaged and further shared with other AMSs.
Activity 3.1 Participation of project staff at CITES CoP18	Results from data collection and experiences on development of shark NDF in Southeast Asian region can be shared at international fora and regional events.
Activity 3.2 Development of project report to be submitted to CITES Secretariat	Project staff will prepare the reports submitting to the CITES Secretariat as required under the LOA.

4.3 Activity, Sub-activity and Proposed Budget

(Unit: USD)

Activity	Sub-Activity	2018	2019
Activity 1	Activity 1.1	20,000	8,000
	Activity 1.2	9,000	9,000
Activity 2	Activity 2		20,000
Activity 3	Activity 3.1		24,000
	Activity 3.2		0
Activity 4			8,000
Sub-Total Budget		29,000	61,000

PART II: ACHIEVEMENT OF 2019 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Achievements of the Project Implementation for the present year <2019>

The key achievements of the project implementation during the year 2019 include:

1. Organization of the National Workshop and Training on Sharks Data Collection for Local Enumerators

In early 2019 the workshop/training was organized by the project in close collaboration with the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and was attended by 33 participants and observers including 17 BFAR Enumerators from the whole Region VI (Western Visayas) of the Philippines which the Provinces of Iloilo, Antique, Aklan, Capiz, Guimaras, and Negros Occidentia. Officers from BFAR-VI as well as from the National Fisheries Resource and Development Institute (NFRDI) of BFAR, representatives from the private sector, and resource persons from SEAFDEC TD and MFRDMD. The chosen venue was crucial for the Training because Region VI (Western Visayas)

of the Philippines is surrounded by productive fishing grounds, of which the Visayan Sea and Guimaras Strait are known fishing grounds for sharks and rays species. Moreover, BFAR records also show a long-term series of catch landings for sharks and rays in Western Visayas, but the veracity of the taxonomic identification in terms of species classification of such landings is still not certain due to the inadequacy of the needed expertise. The Training was important for field enumerators of the Philippines, especially those coming from the Western Visayas, in order that the data on sharks and rays could be reported not only in terms of volume of catch but also classified in terms of species. The Training also facilitated the compilation of biological information as well as the catch and effort of the sharks and rays landings, necessary to determine the stock status of certain targeted sharks and rays species. The said information would provide the necessary inputs for the establishment of the country's non-detriment findings (NDF) for sharks and rays species, where catch, trade and utilization data are not properly documented and/or reported.

2. Organization of National Workshops on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings Document

A series of the national workshop on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Finding Document were organized for Thailand (18-19 July 2019, Samut Prakarn, Thailand), Malaysia (6-7 August 2019, Tawau, Malaysia), and Indonesia (18 September 2019, Jakarta, Indonesia). The workshops aimed at supporting information exchange and learning in making of Non-Detriment Finding (NDF), pursuant to CITES Decision 17.212 of the Convention. Additionally, the workshops also raised awareness and built capacity of competent authorities of their respective countries (Scientific and Management Authorities of CITES, and other key stakeholders). Experiences and lessons learnt and to be learned from various expertise not only from SEAFDEC but also from the national authorities in terms of making NDFs, were discussed during the workshops. Available information documented during the workshop will be disseminated/shared with other AMS.

3. Participation of SEAFDEC staff to CITES-CoP18

On 18 August 2019, SEAFDEC organized the side event "SEAFDEC Experiences on Sharks" during the CoP18 of CITES in Geneva to disseminate the experiences of SEAFDEC and the lessons learnt on the conservation and management of sharks in the Southeast Asian region. Focusing on capacity building, the programs of activities spearheaded by SEAFDEC in collaboration with international and national organizations as well as the SEAFDEC Member Countries include improvement of data collection on sharks, technical support on the implementation of NPOA-Sharks, and assistance for the development of Non-detrimental Findings on sharks.

The speaker from SEAFDEC Secretariat, the Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* was supported by the Senior Fisheries Officer and Head of the Marine Resource Management Office, CITES and Conservation of Endangered Species Unit of the Department of Fisheries Sabah in Malaysia, *Mr. Lawrence Kissol, Jr.* in sharing the experiences of the Southeast Asian countries on the conservation and management of sharks.

It was very noticeable during the Side Event that strong support was expressed by the audience of CoP18 Parties including the observers, on the initiatives of the Southeast Asian countries in promoting the conservation and management of sharks. The more than 70 participants attending the Side Event congratulated SEAFDEC for carrying out a number of activities over a decade with technical support from FAO Rome Headquarters and Malaysia-based SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department. For its part, SEAFDEC is very thankful to the donors for providing financial support that enabled SEAFDEC to implement the shark programs, including the Japanese Trust Fund for SEAFDEC through the Fisheries Agency of the Government of Japan and the EU-CITES sharks program, among others. The expert from FAO Rome Headquarters who attended the Side Event congratulated SEAFDEC for fully utilizing the existing expertise on sharks and for developing effective manual and training packages in its capacity building activities for the benefit of the ASEAN Member States.

4. Organization of Workshop for Validating Data Collected by the Project Participating Countries

A workshop was organized by the project to validate 1-year shark landing data collected by Cambodia

and Myanmar from September 2018 to August 2019 using funding support from the project. The National Focal Point of the Project and two local enumerators for 1-year data collection attended the workshop. SEAFDEC resource persons from MFRDMD and TD provided technical assistance to validate the data during the workshop. It was scheduled that the results from 1-year data collection will be submitted to the project by the first week of November 2019.

2. Information of Present Year Activity including Involved Stakeholders

List of Actual Sub-activity	Type of activity*	Number of Participants			Spent Budget (USD)
		MCs	SEAFDEC	Others	
Activity 1					
Activity 1.1 National workshops for training of local enumerators: Philippines		17 (9)	4(1)	5(2)	4,000
Activity 2 National workshops to support development of national NDF for 3 Parties					20,000
Thailand (18-19 July 2019, Samut Prakarn, Thailand)		26(16)	5(1)	-	
Malaysia (6-7 August 2019, Tawau, Malaysia)		13(5)	7(1)		
Indonesia (18 September 2019, Jakarta, Indonesia)		47(24)	6(2)		
Activity 3 Participation of project staff at CITES CoP18			2(1)		10,000
Activity 4 Organization of workshop for validation of 1-year shark landing data in the participating countries					

3. Achievements and Expected Outcome/Outputs of the Activity:

Planned activity	Expected outcome/output	Achievements
Data Collection by the Participating Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity built for local enumerators of the participating countries - Data set of 1-year shark landing data in the selected landing sites in the participating countries - Reports of the 1-year shark landing data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Workshops for information-poor countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam) conducted. - Report of One-year shark data collection 2018 to 2019 in the project participating countries (Cambodia and Myanmar)
Organization of National Workshops on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings (NDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity built of the national authorities in developing NDF for marine species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of the National Workshops conducted for Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.
Organization of Workshop for Validating Data Collected by the Project Participating Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Validation of the 1-year shark landing data collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of One-year shark data collection 2018 to 2019 in the project participating countries (Cambodia and Myanmar)

4. List of Completed Publications and Others (e.g. technical report, VDO, presentation file, etc.)

List of completed publications for the year 2019	Type of media	Attached e-file
Report of 1-year shark landing data collection	electronic	
Report of the NDF Workshops	electronic	
Terminal report of the project	electronic	

5. Evaluation from Participants of Member Countries for WS and Training Course (if available)

Planned activity	Evaluation/ Views from Participants
Data Collection by the Participating Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data set can be used and merged with the previous year data collected in their respective countries for better understanding of stock condition of shark/ray - Need more capacity building program for local enumerators
Organization of National Workshops on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings (NDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Useful in terms of exchanging/updating information regarding the requirements of making NDF for CITES Listed marine species
Organization of Workshop for Validating Data Collected by the Project Participating Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Useful for the countries as they are having less experiences not only in species identification, but also the use of pivot table for making the full report.