



PIPELINE PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

Project Title: ASEAN-JICA Cooperation for Capacity Building on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia

Prospect Funding Agency: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Lead Department: Training Department (an implementing partner)

Project Participating Countries: All ASEAN Member States (AMSs)

Proposed Budget: approx. 242,000USD

Duration: 4 years

1. Background/Introduction

Fishery is an important socioeconomic activity in coastal developing countries. However, according to the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016 of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), more than 15% of the world's fish catch is likely to be associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing has brought not only overexploitation but also hindering the recovery of fish populations and ecosystems in addition to affecting the economic and social well-being of fishing communities, which in turn has been negatively affecting the countries with weak regulatory systems as specified in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14. Therefore, the need to establish countermeasures to combat IUU fishing has been internationally drawing attention as awareness of the problem has also been increasing, especially when exporting countries have to comply with the international requirements, such as the EC Regulation 1005/2008 since 2010.

Taking into account the significant contribution of fish and fishery products from the Southeast Asian countries to the world markets, the ASEAN Secretariat in cooperation with regional partners led by SEAFDEC has strengthened regional initiatives for facilitating the sharing of experiences and information among the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in order to enhance the respective countries' capacities and efforts to deal with eliminating IUU fishing and adopting the necessary market driven measures. This has been demonstrated when the AMSs adopted in 2016 the "Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products" which serves as platform for strengthening all efforts in implementing regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing, and promoted the "ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain," which had been endorsed by the 37th AMAF in 2015.

2. Goal/overall Objectives

The AMSs have strengthened their activities to deal with eliminating IUU fishing. However, addressing concerns on IUU fishing is complicated, as these could include various approaches such as promoting responsible fishing practices, avoiding depletion of fish stocks and destruction of marine ecosystem, improving legal frameworks, upgrading systems of monitoring control and surveillance (MCS), and adopting fair labor practices. In particular, promoting capacity building for expert officers who are involved and support the implementation through the cooperation mechanisms at regional level, is required among the AMSs.

This Project therefore aims at enhancing the capacity of AMSs in implementing the IUU fishing countermeasures through a series of training and/or workshop activities. Targeting key government staff and researchers responsible for the implementation of relevant activities in AMSs, this Project is in line with ASEAN common policies that recommend and request for regional cooperation to support capacity building on IUU fishing countermeasures in the ASEAN in collaboration with other partners.

3. Project Description

The Project will consist of three activities as indicated below:

Activity1: Training course on “Responsible fishing technologies/practices to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia,” to be arranged in Thailand in 2021 and 2022, with the objective of coping with the international issues that need attention

Activity2: “On-site training courses on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) for eliminating the IUU fishing operations in small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia,” to be organized in Thailand in 2021 and 2022, to enhance the capacity of fishery management officers on the EAFM concept

Activity3: “Regional capacity building workshop on enhancing policies and countermeasures against IUU fishing in Southeast Asia,” to be held in Thailand in 2020 and 2023, with the objective of harmonizing the implementation of policies related to IUU fishing countermeasures and enhancing the capacity of senior officers in charge of international-related issues and IUU fishing countermeasures through information sharing among the AMSs

4. Expected Outputs/Outcomes

Bearing in mind that IUU fishing is a serious concern and threatens the sustainability of the region’s fisheries management measures, fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems, food security and so on, this Project makes sure that the participants from AMSs improve their understanding of the practices and actions necessary to deter IUU fishing and to think about the tangible countermeasures that could be adopted in their own countries, as well as strengthening concrete countermeasures based on specific issues and concerns for eliminating IUU fishing in the AMSs

- Direct/immediate beneficiaries are government officers (researchers) from the AMSs, especially those attending the trainings/workshops
- Indirect beneficiaries are the AMSs and the other countries as well as fishers, other stakeholders and the consumers in general

5. Progress and Status

This ASEAN-JICA Cooperation for Capacity Building on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia would need approval through the ASEAN and JICA procedures. After their approval, SEAFDEC shall serve as an implementing partner of the Project. Therefore, depending on the progress of their procedures, the implementation schedule of project activities would be determined.