THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP

The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership works to strengthen regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, promote sustainable fisheries and conserve marine biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region.

CATCH DOCUMENTATION AND TRACEABILITY

Southeast Asia houses some of the world's most productive and biodiverse marine ecosystems. These ecosystems provide food and income to over 200 million people in the region; however, unsustainable fishing practices threaten biodiversity, food security and livelihoods. The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) supports the development of transparent and financially sustainable Catch Documentation and Traceability Systems to help ensure that fisheries resources are legally caught and properly labeled. The system supports transparency and interoperability through established data standards and a common set of Key Data Elements that ensure a core set of traceability data is collected to meet varying market regulations. The system is designed to support wild capture fisheries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region and supports improved fisheries management and traceability, based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Catch documentation and traceability provides a means for governments and the fishing industry to better regulate fishing, prevent overfishing and enforce against illegal and unreported fishing—key drivers of marine biodiversity loss. With Catch Documentation and Traceability System data, governments will be able to strengthen laws and improve natural resource management to lessen the impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems, reduce pressure on marine biodiversity and strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts. USAID Oceans supports increased capacity in fisheries management through technical support and trainings, guided by an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management. The Partnership also provides guidance in harmonizing existing and developing new regulatory policies and facilitates the development of updated fisheries management plans that build off of in-depth field research and Catch Documentation data.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT

To improve transparency in the seafood supply chain and help ensure successful, sustainable solutions, USAID Oceans engages a variety of fisheries stakeholders and forms new partnerships among governments, regional institutions and the private sector. Developing partnerships with the commercial seafood industry, market buyers (including international supermarket chains and exporters) and the technology sector anchors the

partnership's efforts in market realities and provides increased scale and sustainability for project investments. The Partnership works to leverage private sector investment and resources to increase the impact of the Catch Documentation and Traceability System as well as marine conservation efforts in the Asia-Pacific region.

HUMAN WELFARE AND GENDER

The fisheries sector garners much attention for its adverse human welfare conditions which are perpetuated by illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, limited fish stocks and lack of uniform regulation or standards in the region. USAID Oceans seeks to improve labor conditions, gender equity and gender equality through its Catch Documentation and Traceability System and all program initiatives. USAID Oceans aims to provide guidance to regional partners on best practices in labor and encourage system partners to use a recommended set of Key Data Elements that address the human element of fishing activities.

PARTNERS - The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership is a program of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Regional Development Mission for Asia and is implemented by Tetra Tech ARD, in partnership with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs (CTI-CFF). USAID Oceans works with a wide range of global, regional and national partners, including national and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, the seafood industry and other private sector organizations.

USAID Oceans works in partnership with the Government of the Philippines and Government of Indonesia to implement and test its Catch Documentation and Traceability System in the program learning sites of General Santos City, Philippines, and Bitung, Indonesia. The Partnership also works with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and CTI member countries to bolster their capacity for and implementation of catch documentation and traceability in national fisheries.

Partners of USAID Oceans include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the U.S. Department of the Interior; the UN Food and Agriculture Organization; SSG Advisors; Verité; and the Government of Sweden.

For a full list of USAID Oceans' partners, visit *seafdec-oceanspartnership.org/partners*.

CONTACT

Cristina Vélez-Srinivasan, USAID RDMA
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor, 63 Wireless Road
Lumpini, Patumwan, Bangkok, Thailand

Tel: +66-2-257-3000   Fax: +66-2-257-3099

Email: *info-rdma@usaid.gov*

http://www.usaid.gov/asia-regional