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# USAID OCEANS AND FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP

USAID Oceans works to strengthen regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), promote sustainable fisheries and conserve marine biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **CATCH DOCUMENTATION AND TRACEABILITY**

The Asia-Pacific region houses the world's most productive and biodiverse marine ecosystems that provide food and income to over 200 million people in the region; however, unsustainable fishing practices threaten the region's biodiversity, food security and livelihoods. USAID Oceans works with public and private sector partners to strengthen electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT) that ensures fisheries resources are legally caught and properly labeled. The program supports regional and national traceability initiatives and develops a suite of tools that enable data capture at each step of the supply chain to meet market regulations, inform fisheries management and acknowledge the human aspects of the fisheries sector.

## **BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

eCDT provides a means for governments and the fishing industry to better regulate fishing, prevent overfishing and enforce against IUU — key drivers of marine biodiversity loss. With eCDT data, governments can strengthen laws and improve management of marine ecosystems. Using an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, USAID Oceans strengthens its partners' capacity in fisheries management through technical support and trainings, to harmonize existing and develop new fisheries management plans and promote partners' use of eCDT data for improved fisheries management.

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT

USAID Oceans develops strategic, market-driven partnerships that capitalize on industry technical expertise, market position and capacity to engage national and local government counterparts. The program has partnered with a variety of fisheries stakeholders to forge partnerships between government, regional institutions and the private sector, including those in the commercial seafood industry, market buyers (including international exporters and importers) and technology providers. USAID Oceans builds these partnerships to anchor its efforts in market realities and enable broader national and regional scaling of project investments.

## HUMAN WELFARE AND GENDER

In recent years, the fisheries sector has garnered attention for its adverse human welfare conditions, which are perpetuated by IUU fishing, limited fish stocks and a lack of uniform standards. USAID Oceans aims to improve labor conditions for fairer and gender-equitable seafood supply chains by integrating human welfare throughout all the program's activities. In addition to developing a recommended set of eCDT data points that address the human element of fishing activities, USAID Oceans provides trainings on mainstreaming gender equity in fisheries activities, supports the development of national and local policies and regulations and advocates for women's empowerment and gender equity.

## IMPACT AND RESULTS

As of the beginning of 2019, USAID Oceans has:

- Tracked approximately **30 metric tons** of seafood from “bait to plate,” through program-supported traceability technology;
- Tested **5 electronic traceability technologies** for small- and large-scale seafood traceability;
- Improved management of **>100 million hectares** of biologically significant marine habitat;
- Trained an equal proportion of **more than 1,500** women and men in program technical areas;
- Developed training resources for integrating gender aspects in fisheries management, downloaded by practitioners in **over 70 countries** around the world; and
- Leveraged nearly **\$2 million** in public and private sector partner funding to increase sustainability.

To track the program's current impacts, visit [www.seafdec-oceanspartnership.org](http://www.seafdec-oceanspartnership.org).

## PARTNERS

USAID Oceans is an activity of USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia and is implemented by TetraTech ARD, in partnership with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the technical and operational arm for fisheries matters in the region. Other partners include the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security as well as a wide range of global, regional, national and local partners to bolster the capacity for and implementation of CDT systems. For a full list of USAID Oceans' partners, visit [seafdec-oceanspartnership.org/partners](http://seafdec-oceanspartnership.org/partners).

## CONTACT

Cristina Vélez Srinivasan, USAID/RDMA  
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor, 63 Wireless Road  
Lumphini, Pathumwan, Bangkok, Thailand  
Tel: +66-2-257-3000 Fax: +66-2-257-3099  
Email: [cvelez@usaid.gov](mailto:cvelez@usaid.gov)  
<http://www.usaid.gov/asia-regional>

Gina Green, PhD, Tetra Tech  
P.O. Box 1397  
Burlington, Vermont, United States  
Email: [info@oceans-partnership.org](mailto:info@oceans-partnership.org)