CATCH DOCUMENTATION AND TRACEABILITY

Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) is the practice of documenting key information about the harvest, processing, and transportation of a fisheries product to enable traceability of the seafood product back through each step of its journey—from its import or point of final sale back to its harvest and point of origin.

USAID Oceans uses CDT to electronically document and trace wild-caught seafood products in an effort to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, improve fisheries management and protect individuals in the fisheries sector from human welfare abuses.

While catch documentation and traceability supports the tracking of marine resources, it does not necessarily inherently promote sustainability and biodiversity unless the data gathered is actively used for and supported by sustainable fisheries management plans. Thus, USAID Oceans embraces CDT in tandem with fisheries management and human welfare principles to create a holistic response to fisheries challenges. CDT is a practical way to:

- Ensure fisheries resources are legally caught and properly labeled;
- Encourage the collection and analysis of ecological and economic data throughout the seafood supply chain;
- Support effective national fisheries management and fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance; and
- Comply with national, regional and international seafood regulations and import requirements.

THE CHALLENGE

IUU fishing is a leading threat to Southeast Asia's fish stocks, marine ecosystems and overall fisheries sustainability. It is fueled by insufficient fisheries management and a lack of transparency in the seafood supply chain. Without coordinated supply chain data, illegal activities will continue to go undetected.

Challenges for CDT across Southeast Asia vary greatly by country, but commonly include a lack of supporting fisheries policies and regulations; inefficient or outdated documentation protocols; unsynchronized documentation processes throughout the supply chain; a lack of harmonized efforts across national or regional fisheries agencies; and inadequate infrastructure for electronic data capture. CDT initiatives require a great amount of coordination, cooperation and cohesive action.

USAID OCEANS' APPROACH

USAID Oceans supports the development of transparent and financially sustainable electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability Systems (CDTS) that bolster the abilities of Asia-Pacific nations to combat IUU fishing practices, enhance fisheries management, and protect its citizens from human rights and labor abuses—including those that result from gender inequality.

(continued on reverse)

THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP
(USAID Oceans)

PHOTO: MELINDA DONNELLY / USAID OCEANS

USAID Oceans works with ASEAN and Coral Triangle member countries to develop and strengthen electronic CDTS solutions that acknowledge their individual priorities, requirements and capabilities. USAID Oceans supports countries to implement ready-made CDT solutions, through the SEAFDEC electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS), as well as provides guidance to countries that may have more complex fisheries and advanced capabilities that wish to develop a custom-built system.

USAID Oceans' CDT activities support:

ELECTRONIC CATCH DOCUMENTATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEMS THAT FURTHER DATA-DRIVEN MANAGEMENT. USAID Oceans is focused on advancing data-driven fisheries management that supports sustainability as well as national economic priorities. Linking CDT data with broader national fisheries information systems and other existing national databases will support effective national fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance, as CDT remains one of the most valuable and comprehensive methods for collecting fisheries statistics at a reasonable cost.

DEPLOYMENT OF CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY. USAID Oceans partners with the private sector to harness the latest communication technologies and traceability innovations to ensure use of the best available connectivity, capture and transmission capabilities. USAID Oceans works closely with technology partners to build market requirements and sector guidance into technology solutions, enabling custom-built technology that can capture tailored data sets and value-added business features.

INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL- AND LARGE-SCALE FISHERIES. USAID Oceans acknowledges that small- and large-scale fisheries have varying data collection needs, capabilities and requirements, and as such cultivates technology innovations for small-scale inclusivity, as well as data capture, transmission and storage solutions that are appropriate for fisheries operations of all sizes.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP FOR CDT AND COLLECTION STANDARDS. USAID Oceans partners with regional and national organizations, as well as international non-government and standards organizations to further dialogues and establish a proof of concept for CDT standards, technical architecture, interoperability and implementation methodologies.

CAPACITY BUILDING. USAID Oceans delivers trainings to local partners and stakeholders on CDTS development, maintenance and data collection. Capacity building activities target the staff of government fisheries agencies, local fisheries organizations, industry leaders, technology and service providers, and fisherfolk.

USAID Oceans supports regional, national and local partners to further CDT initiatives, together with the program's fisheries management, partnerships and human welfare activities. USAID Oceans has:

- Established a Technical Advisory Group with representatives from leading fisheries development organizations, non-governmental organizations, and standards organizations.

- Developed guidance on CDT concepts, technical specifications, data elements, and collection standards.

- Conducted Value Chain and CDT Gaps Analyses to inform country-specific CDT roadmaps and development plans.

- Increased the capacity of national fisheries agencies to develop and maintain electronic CDTS that are capable of linking with broader national fisheries information systems.

- Partnered with the private sector to select or create technical solutions that accommodate market requirements, national capabilities and user needs.

- Facilitated the development of learning site CDTS through industry engagement, technical guidance, tailored development trainings and technical resources.

Resources Available:

Fisheries Catch Documentation and Traceability in Southeast Asia: A Conceptual Overview (CDT 101)

Fisheries Catch Documentation and Traceability in Southeast Asia: Technical Concept and Specifications (CDT 201)

Data Requirements for Catch Documentation and Traceability in Southeast Asia (KDE Manual)

Learn more at *seafdec-oceanspartnership.org* or contact us at *info@oceans-partnership.org*.