

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR LOCAL PLANNING

When the administration of the fisheries sector in Cambodia was reformed recently, some roles and responsibilities, including cantonment planning, were delegated to the sub-national level. This was in line with the government's decentralization policy. However, the capacity of the fisheries cantonments to design their own plans is still limited; therefore, the Planning, Finance and International Co-operation Department (PFID) of the FiA has initiated training courses and learning by doing for fishery cantonment officials. Coordinated support is being provided jointly by the Wetland Alliance, UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Danish International Development Agency (Danida).

TRAINING WORKSHOP



In the first phase, the PFID delivered a training workshop on "FiA Cantonment-Level Planning" to nine fishery cantonments, including those in the northeast area, coastal area and Tonle Sap region. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of local officials to design their own work plans while taking account of opportunities for cooperation at the local level and aligning with national fisheries plans and policies.

The training was conducted through lectures and assignments related to officials' own work plans. Through this workshop, each cantonment drafted a cantonment annual action plan (CAAP) drawn from practical work.

With backstopping from the WorldFish Center, Stung Treng was able to develop a CAAP that has been accepted and integrated into the national annual action plan.

To ensure that all fisheries cantonment officials who participated in the workshop are able to develop their own CAAP efficiently, the PFID has set up a mechanism to follow up on each cantonment's progress.

NEXT STEPS

In order to implement the new work plans more effectively with transparency and accountability, the PFID plans to offer another training course on financial management systems to all cantonment officials who participated in the previous workshop. Moreover, the PFID is attempting to extend its work on cantonment-level planning to fisheries officials across Cambodia.

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