

Checklist for Data Collection on Nonglom Fishing Practices and Fishers



INITIATIVE ON
Agroecology



Introduction

In mid-2024, the Hom and Thamaleuy communities, with facilitation support from WorldFish Cambodia and IWMI Laos, co-developed a management plan for the Nonglom wetlands. By November, they secured official endorsement from the Samakhyxai district government for the plan and the proposed management committee to lead its implementation.

One of the key actions proposed under the management plan is to establish a Fisheries Conservation Group and Sao Baan (Villager led action research). Their role will be to collect data on current fishing access, facilitate an improved regulation of fishing activities, and enhance fishing practices through the creation of fish conservation zones and the improvement of aquatic habitats. The purpose of this action is to manage fishing access by regulating efforts and practices, while also ensuring the ecological requirements for fish and other aquatic animals in the Nonglom wetlands are met.

Objective

The purpose of the checklist is to guide the collection of information on current fishing access and its contribution to local livelihoods. The data and information generated will inform the Nonglom Management Committee's decisions on regulating fishing access, establishing fish conservation zones, and defining how aquatic habitats and their connectivity can be reestablished. Iterative data collection will help establish trends in access, resources, and needs for aquatic habitat enhancement.

Potential Users of the Checklist

The Nonglom Wetlands Management Committee and its four thematic groups are composed of local stakeholders, including the chiefs of the participating communities, the village-level Lao Women's Union, the Village Youth Group, the Village Land Use Unit, and local fishers from the Hom and Thamaleuy communities. Potential applicants are local individuals with limited education but should have the capacity to understand and record data and information with minimal prior orientation or introduction.

Structure of the Checklist

The checklist collects data on various aspects of fishing, including the population structure involved, fishing grounds, fishing efforts, gear types, target species, and the amount of catch by season and gear type. It also examines how fish contribute to local livelihoods and food nutrition. This exercise will provide data to assess the state of the fisheries and the ecological health of the wetlands.

Application of the Checklist

The checklist must be translated into Lao and reviewed for ease of use. Hard copies should be made available for applicants to use directly when collecting information from fishers in the wetland areas surrounding the lake and in Sekong. In the future, with adequate support and access to smartphones, the checklist content could be incorporated into mobile applications like KoboCollect to facilitate easier and more accurate data recording.

a) Fisher Information

1. **Fisher's Name**
2. **Contact Information**
3. **Home Location**
 - Address
4. **Demographic Information**
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Household Size
 - How many people engaged in fishing

b) Fishing Practices

1. **Fishing Methods**
 - Types of Gear Used (e.g., nets, traps, lines)
 - Fishing Techniques (e.g., hand fishing, mobile, stationary)
2. **Fishing Effort**
 - Number of Fishing Trips per Week/Month
 - Duration of Each Trip
3. **Fishing Areas**
 - Specific Locations Fished (GPS Coordinates)
 - Seasonal Variations in Fishing Locations: in the lake, by the creeks, in the rice field (may provide with a seasonal fishing calendar)

c) Catch Data

1. **Species Caught**
 - Local name
 - Common and Scientific Names (if available, provision of picture of the fish

should help identify the species in there is a doubt about it).

2. **Catch Quantity**
 - Number of Fish Caught per Trip
 - Weight of Fish Caught per Trip
3. **Catch Size**
 - Length (standard) and Weight of Individual Fish (2-3 fish from each species caught)
4. **Catch Composition**
 - Proportion of Different Species in the Catch (by individual count and by weight)
5. **State of the gravid**
 - The state of the gravid against a scale from 1-6 (need to learn the chart and to open body cavity)

d) Fishing Equipment

1. **Types of Equipment Used**
 - Nets, Traps, Lines, Boats
2. **Condition of Equipment**
 - Age and Maintenance Status/ seasonal disposable gears / reuse gears
3. **Ownership**
 - Owned vs. Rented Equipment

e) Economic Aspects

1. **Use of the catch**
 - Percentage and type of fish used for subsistence and for selling
 - Percentage and type of fish used for fresh consumption / selling and for processing

1. **Income from Fishing and Market Information**
 - Average Monthly Income
 - Seasonal Variations in Income
 - Primary Markets for Selling Fish
 - Prices Received for Different Species
2. **Additional Sources of Income**
 - Other Livelihood Activities
 - Is fishing the main livelihood activity for the HH, if not what are they?
 - What is the average share of labour on fishing against other livelihood activities (or overall livelihood activity mix for the household)?

f) Environmental and Social Factors

1. **Water Quality**
 - Observations on Water Clarity, Pollution
2. **Environmental Changes**
 - Notable Changes in Water Levels, Vegetation
3. **Fisheries protection Involvement**
 - Involvement in Conservation Efforts

g) Challenges and Issues

1. **Fishing Regulations**
 - Awareness and Compliance with Local Regulations
2. **Resource Availability**
 - Changes in Fish Populations
 - Access to Fishing Areas
 - Changes in fishing practices
3. **Conflicts**
 - Conflicts with Other Fishers or Water Users

h) Additional Notes

4. **Observations**
 - Any notable changes in fishing practices or fish populations
5. **Suggestions**
 - Fishers' suggestions for improving fishing practices or management

Kosal Mam, Scientist, k.mam@cgiar.org

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. Its research is carried out by 13 CGIAR Centers/Alliances in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector. www.cgiar.org

We would like to thank all funders who support this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: www.cgiar.org/funders.

To learn more about this Initiative, please visit [this webpage](#).

To learn more about this and other Initiatives in the CGIAR Research Portfolio, please visit www.cgiar.org/cgiar-portfolio

© 2023 CGIAR System Organization. Some rights reserved.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International Licence (CC BYNC 4.0).

