



CAMBODIA'S NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING (NPOA-IUU)

**Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and
Countermeasures Against IUU-F in Southeast Asia**

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OUTLINE

Summary of current NPOA-IUU

Policy action to implement combating IUU-F activities following NPOA-IUU in short, medium and long term

Law and regulations to support

Challenges and obstacles of NPOA-IUU implementation

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SUMMARY OF CURRENT NPOA-IUU

The NPOA-IUU (2020-2024) was approved by the Royal Government of Cambodia for implementing activities at regional and global level, while NPCI (National Plan of Control and Inspection) (2020-2024), implementing activities at National Level)

The NPOA-IUU

- Cambodia ratified PSMA on 6 December 2019; UNFSA and ratified the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies on 23 March 2024.
- Collaborate work with RPOA-IUU and Subgroup of GoT
- Approved Marine Fisheries Policy;
- Review and approved Law on Fisheries and Its legislations

SUMMARY OF CURRENT NPOA-IUU

- The National Plan of Control , and Inspection for Marine Fisheries, 2020-2024 (NPCI-MF);

Registered marine Fishing Vessels Licensing medium and large scale marine Fishing Vessels

- Installed VMS on 125 vessels, which its total length is longer than 18 m and 1600 medium Scale fishing vessels.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT NPOA-IUU

- Established VMS monitoring center located in Preah Sihanoukville city, FiA and FiAC officers were trained, 3 times.
- Prepare and printing poster on fishing vessel registration and illegal fishing activities for public to fisherman
- The National Strategy Plan for Fisheries (SPF 2025-2035) and 5-year Marine and Inland Fisheries Management Plan and Inland Plan of Control and Inspection have been reviewed and discussed with relevant stakeholders

SUMMARY OF CURRENT NPOA-IUU

- Experts from the Australia Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) visited Cambodia and trained FiA officers and inter-agencies on VMS and PSMA to fisheries on 16-18 January 2024 in Preah Sihanouk and Koh Kong provinces.
- FiA officers were trained on the Regional MCS at Nga Trang, Vietnam, supported and funded by AFMA, in 2023, 2024 and 2025;
- With assistance from FAO experts, 6 FiA inspectors were trained on Port State Inspection Procedures on 10-15 November 2024 in the Fisheries Department of Thailand.

Policy action to implement combating IUU activities following NPOA-IUU in short, medium and long term

Short-Term Activities (Immediate Action)

Legal and Policy Implementation:

Terminated Ship Registrations and Revoke Licenses: Implement a policy to Terminates registrations and revoke licenses for vessels involved in IUU fishing activities.

Enforce Existing Laws: Utilize existing fisheries laws and regulations to combat IUU fishing.

Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS):

Activate Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS): Ensure the effective operation and monitoring of VMS for Cambodian-flagged vessels to track their activities.

Conduct Port Inspections: Carry out port inspections to verify the legality of catches and prevent the entry of IUU products.

Policy action to implement combating IUU activities following NPOA-IUU in short, medium and long term

Capacity Building:

Train Fisheries Officers: Provide training to fisheries officers on the use of VMS and Electronic Catch Document and Traceability Systems (eACDS) to strengthen their capacity.

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- Provide training on related SOP for PSMA implementation and continue to use SMART Inspection Tool for recording and reporting inspection at landing sites and sea.

Policy action to implement combating IUU activities following NPOA-IUU in short, medium and long term

Medium-Term Activities (Building Capacity)

Institutional Strengthening:

Develop Adequate Administrative Systems: Establish and improve administrative systems for monitoring vessels and conducting investigations into IUU fishing activities.

Enhanced Data Management:

Implement Fish Logbooks: Introduce and manage fish logbooks for vessels to improve data collection on catches.

Strengthening Regulations:

Revise Legal Frameworks: Revise and update existing legislation to ensure the effective conservation and management of living marine resources.

Policy action to implement combating IUU activities following NPOA-IUU in short, medium and long term

Long-Term Activities (Strategic Development & Sustainability)

Regional and International Cooperation:

Participate in ASEAN and RPOA-IUU Initiatives: Strengthen collaborative efforts through regional bodies like ASEAN and RPOA-IUU to share information, best practices, and develop joint action plans to combat IUU fishing.

Sustainable Fisheries Management:

Finalize and approve 10 years National Strategy Plan for Fisheries (SPF 2025-2035) and 5 years Marine and Inland Fisheries Management Plan and Inland Plan of Control and Inspection as well as the Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for PSMA implementation;

NPOA-IUU (the legal and regulation documents to support the implementation of PSM and to address IUU Fishing Issues)

- ❑ The Fisheries Law was promulgated in June 2025, Now, the Sug-decree on Marine Fisheries Conservation and management was drafted for stakeholder consultation. Besides this, five MAFF's proclamations related to the management and conservation of marine fisheries have been drafted and consulted.
- ❑ FiA met and discussed with the Ministry of Public Work and Transport (MPWT) on marine fishing vessel registration and licensing; the access to the marine fishing vessels database and the updated tables statistic of its registration of all medium and large-scale marine fishing vessels.
- ❑ The Marine Fisheries Policy", was adopted in October 2019.

NPOA-IUU (the legal and regulation documents to support the implementation of PSM and to address IUU Fishing Issues)

- ❑ The policy outlines the sustainable fisheries management, include important ecological guidelines, such as the ecosystems-based approach to fisheries, and freezing the number of fishing vessels at effort levels of 2018 and fighting IUU-F.
- ❑ The MAFF's Proclamation on marine fishing gear has been drafted, and it's expected to be approved by the end of this year. The inventory of fish landing sites was also conducted.
- ❑ The current FAO Global Record on fishing vessels and ASEAN-SEAFDEC RFVR is only applicable for fishing vessels above 24m in length. Cambodia, through FiA, maintains a record of all fishing vessels in Cambodia. All fishing vessels in Cambodia are below 24m in length.

Challenges and obstacles of NPOA-IUU implementation.

- There are many IUU issues in the marine fishery of Cambodia to be addressed, including unregulated fishing by both national and foreign vessels resulting in overcapacity and leading to increased illegal activities that are not controlled due to weak monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).
- In the past, some fishing vessels and transport/re-supply vessels flying the Cambodian flag have been reported to be involved in IUU fishing activities by several regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). The issuing of these flags of convenience (FOCs) ceased in 2015 and became effectively from 31 August 2016.

Challenges and obstacles of NPOA-IUU implementation.

- Cambodia is not yet a member of ILO, but in the revision of the Fisheries Law, mentioned that the minimum requirement of ILO agreement will be applied, but FiA actively participated in the consultation meeting to discuss on this issue;
- Cambodia doesn't have fishing vessels in the RFMO areas. Cambodia and other AMSs agree to cooperate with the relevant RFMOs in complying with the RFMOs Catch Documentation Schemes;
- Cambodia has been working to address the issues of IUU fishing in cooperation with EU, FAO, SEAFDEC and other international organizations.

Thank You

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