

EXPERIENCES OF NETWORK FOR PROMOTION OF GENDER IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (NGF) IN THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN

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In response to the national policies emphasizing gender in fisheries, the fisheries line agencies in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam initiated in the 1990s, activities to highlight the role of women and gender in the fisheries sector. National focal points were identified for gender promotion in fisheries and network developed based on national administrative and organizational structures. In 2000, the Network for Promotion of Gender in Fisheries Management and Development (NGF) in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) was established by integrating the four national focal points.

The NGF is a “Fisheries Line Agencies Network” but technical and funding support is provided by the Member Countries (MCs) and other organizations including the MRC_FP (Mekong River Commission-Fisheries Programme). Two officers from government fisheries line agencies of the MCs are members in NGF. The NGF has been set up as the platform for regional and international dialogue on gender issues in fisheries and aquaculture in order to (1) ensure equal benefit for men and women in fisheries development; (2) increase awareness of gender’s roles in the fisheries sectors; and (3) provide information on gender and women in fisheries and aquaculture including (i) Gender-disaggregated data; (ii) General Socio-economic data; and (iii) Other Gender-relevant information; to ensure that gender is taken into account in the design of fisheries management and development activities. The NGF uses the Gender Mainstreaming (GM) strategy, to integrate gender in national fisheries development policies and plans which are duly endorsed by the fisheries line agencies.

The MRC-FP has been supporting the NGF in conducting its Annual Meetings and training initiatives in mainstreaming gender in the fisheries sector through a variety of platforms. The 15th NGF annual meeting was organized in August 2014, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. NGF members review progress and discuss national and regional work plans during the annual meetings. Recently, the MRC-FP decided to support the NGF for conducting studies on ‘Gender Issues in Fisheries and Aquaculture’ The study findings will be used as gender indicators in M&E of FP-Implementation Plan (PIP) 2011-15 and the national fisheries strategy plan of the four MCs.

NGF has been recognized as the important regional network for effective gender promotion and mainstreaming in fisheries and aquaculture in the LMB. However, The NGF still needs to be expanded and strengthened so that it can be more effective in gender mainstreaming by supporting capacity building with adequate financial support.