

Towards Transparency and Responsibility: Empowering the Indonesia's Marine Aquarium Fishery through MAPI initiative

Abstract:

The Marine Aquarium Program Indonesia (MAPI) addresses the challenges facing Indonesia's marine aquarium fishery, aiming to promote legal, responsible, and sustainable practices. Initiated by Yayasan Alam Indonesia Lestari (LINI) in June 2023, MAPI is an online platform facilitating accessibility and transparency within the industry. By providing comprehensive information on traded species, management approaches, and supply chain participants, MAPI fosters collaboration among stakeholders. Through compliance criteria, traceability measures, environmental impact assessments, and social responsibility initiatives, MAPI mobilizes fishers, suppliers, exporters, and other stakeholders to advocate for and implement improvements. Targeting fishers, suppliers, government authorities, conservation organizations, industry associations, consumers, research institutions, and community stakeholders, MAPI seeks to ensure sustainable livelihoods while conserving marine ecosystems. This abstract encapsulates MAPI's mission to foster a responsible and thriving marine aquarium industry in Indonesia, emphasizing collaboration, transparency, and sustainability across the supply chain.

Introduction to MAPI

The Marine Aquarium Program Indonesia (MAPI) was initiated by Yayasan Alam Indonesia Lestari (LINI) and launched in June 2023. MAPI is an online platform dedicated to making the marine aquarium fishery in Indonesia more accessible. It aims to showcase the industry's efforts towards promoting legal and responsible fishing practices while facilitating connections among like-minded companies. This platform intends to provide comprehensive information on traded species from Indonesia, management approaches, and details of supply chain participants.

The marine aquarium fishery is a significant source of livelihood for numerous coastal communities across Indonesia, serving both export and domestic markets, which are continuously growing. However, the lack of organized and accessible data and information poses challenges. To address these issues, LINI has developed the MAPI online platform, aiming to connect the supply chain and support legal and responsible practices within the marine aquarium fishery.

MAPI seeks to mobilize all stakeholders involved in addressing the challenges faced by the fishery, emphasizing responsibility and livelihood support across the supply chain. It is a collaborative effort involving fishers, suppliers, exporters, and other stakeholders to advocate for and implement improvements in practices and management, particularly in combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and other unsustainable practices within the marine aquarium industry.

For the project's objectives, four criteria, comprising 17 indicators, have been developed to promote responsible and sustainable marine aquarium fishery practices in Indonesia.

Aspect 1: Compliance with Regulations

- Ensuring compliance with regulations (legality) involves:
- Vessel owners, suppliers, and exporters having a Business Identification Number.
- Fishers possessing a valid fisher's ID card.
- Fishing gear meeting legal specifications.
- Fishing activities occurring only in permitted areas and zones.
- Exporters holding a Fish Quarantine Installation Certificate (IKI).
- Registration of small vessels (< 10GT) used for catching and transporting aquarium fish.
- Valid fishing licenses for vessels > 10 GT supplying the marine aquarium fish trade.

Aspect 2: Traceability

To address unreported catches, suppliers and exporters must:

- Record and submit catch and production data to the government regularly.
- Maintain records and submit documents demonstrating fish catch data and production/trading data, including records of the product's point of origin or area of catch and point of sale/destination.

Aspect 3: Environmental Impact

- Data and information on the target species' population and habitat conditions are crucial for maintaining population health and supporting the environment.

Aspect 4: Social Responsibility

- Supporting environmental preservation and fishers' welfare is essential.

Target Groups:

The MAPI Project aims to engage and benefit the following target groups:

- **Fishers:** Including small-scale and commercial fishers involved in the marine aquarium fishery, with a focus on promoting sustainable fishing practices and ensuring their livelihoods are supported.
- **Suppliers and Exporters:** Businesses and individuals involved in the supply chain of marine aquarium fish, encouraging compliance with regulations, traceability of products, and responsible trading practices.
- **Government Authorities:** Regulatory bodies responsible for overseeing the marine aquarium fishery, collaborating to enforce regulations, improve management practices, and enhance transparency.
- **Conservation Organizations:** Entities dedicated to marine conservation, partnering to ensure that the marine aquarium trade aligns with conservation goals and minimizes negative environmental impacts.
- **Industry Associations:** Organizations representing the interests of the marine aquarium industry, working together to promote sustainable practices, address challenges, and uphold ethical standards.
- **Consumers:** Individuals purchasing marine aquarium fish, raising awareness about responsible sourcing, and encouraging demand for sustainably sourced products.
- **Research Institutions:** Academic and research organizations contributing expertise to inform management decisions, assess the impact of the marine aquarium trade, and develop sustainable practices.
- **Community Stakeholders:** Local communities residing in coastal areas, collaborating to ensure that the marine aquarium trade benefits community livelihoods while preserving marine ecosystems.

By identifying these target groups, the MAPI Project can effectively tailor its strategies and activities to engage with and support key stakeholders across the marine aquarium industry and conservation sectors.

In conclusion, the Marine Aquarium Program Indonesia (MAPI) stands as a beacon of hope for Indonesia's marine aquarium fishery. By uniting stakeholders, promoting compliance, enhancing traceability, assessing environmental impacts, and embracing social responsibility, MAPI charts a course towards a more ethical and resilient industry within Indonesia's rich marine biodiversity. Through targeted engagement with diverse stakeholders, MAPI endeavors to uphold the

principles of legality, transparency, and conservation while supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities throughout Indonesia's vast archipelago. As MAPI continues to evolve and expand its reach, it stands poised to make a tangible difference in the preservation of Indonesia's marine ecosystems and the well-being of those who depend on them. Join us in our commitment to a future where the marine aquarium trade thrives responsibly in Indonesia, ensuring the prosperity of both people and oceans for generations to come.