

Synthesis of FMSP Experience and Lessons Learned for Fisheries Co-management

Follow up communications report: Project R8470



December 2005

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Cover picture: Products developed to highlight tools and lessons learned relating to co-management and co-managed fisheries resulting from FMSP funded research projects.

1. Introduction

The specific objective of the communications strategy was to raise awareness of the products developed in R8470 (Synthesis of FMSP experience and lessons learned for co-management) as well as those produced in projects R8462 (Evaluation and uptake promotion of data collection guideline for co-managed fisheries) and R8464 (Application and promotion of FMSP Participatory Fisheries Stock Assessment – ParFish) in order to achieve uptake of the lessons learned and methods developed in these projects as well as a range of other FMSP projects. Uptake is intended to ensure that the lessons learned and experiences become incorporated into the policies, programmes and activities of the target communications stakeholders. It is expected that benefits will be passed on to the poor through improved resource management arrangements and management outcomes will occur, although not within the lifetime of the project.

The communications strategy, target communications stakeholders and details of the materials developed are described in Annex 1 of the final technical report for R8470. This report provides details of the first stage of the process leading to uptake: the promotion of the communications products to a range of communication stakeholders together with some initial indications of the opportunities for uptake.

2. Monitoring and evaluation

Because the communications plan was coordinated with projects R8462 and R8464 it has been crucial that an effective system for monitoring and evaluating communications plans and activities was in place. For this reason a single database has been created and used to coordinate effectively communications activities. This database was used in the dissemination of project products and to record who had received each and any responses and this monitoring was central to the preparation of this report.

3. Distribution of Products

Project R8470 ('Synthesis of FMSP experience and lessons for fisheries co-management') produced three main communications products and coordinated the activities of projects R8462 and R8464 in creating synthesis products as described below in Table 1.

Table 1. Products developed by and through FMSP Project R8470.

	Project	Product	Description	Target
1	R8470	Co-management document	A summary of lessons and tools for co-management arising from the FMSP Programme	All Stakeholders interested in fisheries management in a developing country context
2		Co-management synthesis	A short version of the co-management lessons from the FMSP Programme	Fisheries managers, researchers and facilitators involved in fisheries co-management
3		Co-management policy brief	A summary of co-management lessons of particular relevance to policy making	Policy and decision makers.
4	R8462	Information collection policy brief	A summary of the importance of information collection for co-management and benefits of using the eight-stage approach	Policy and decision makers
5	R8464	ParFish synthesis brief	An overview of the ParFish approach highlighting the use of local knowledge and participation.	Fisheries managers, researchers, facilitators and policy makers involved in fisheries co-management

These products were the subject of a distribution process that involved raising awareness of the products and communicating them through a variety of media. The planned distribution of the project products was reported in the project Final Technical Report and the matrix showing the completed activities, planned activities and target stakeholders is provided below in Table 2. Note that blank boxes in the table indicate where the project did not intend to use the communication medium to disseminate the research messages to particular stakeholder groups.

Table 2. Planned activities as outlined in the project communications matrix. Shaded boxes indicate planned activities.

Communication media	Policy Makers	Promotion organisations	Implementing agencies	Capacity building
Electronic				
Website	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis
CD				
Email	Using flyer and other products and communications database of over 150 stakeholders	Using flyer and other products and communications database of over 150 stakeholders	Using flyer and other products and communications database of over 150 stakeholders	Using flyer and other products and communications database of over 150 stakeholders
List Servers		e.g. FishFolk	e.g. FishFolk	e.g. FishFolk
Telephone	Y	Y	Y	Y
Face-to-Face				
1-1 meetings	Y	N		
Group meetings	Y			
Workshops				
Conferences			N	N
Study Tours				
Print				
Journals				
Newsletters	e.g. STREAM Media Monitor, CBNRM News	e.g. STREAM Media Monitor, CBNRM News		e.g. STREAM Media Monitor, CBNRM News
Reports	Project FTR		Project FTR	Project FTR
Guidelines			Distribute co-management synthesis	Distribute co-management synthesis
Policy Brief	Co-management policy brief, co-management summary brief	Co-management summary brief	Co-management policy brief, co-management summary brief	Co-management policy brief, co-management summary brief
Flyers/Briefs	Distribute through communications database of over 150 stakeholders	Distribute through communications database of over 150 stakeholders	Distribute through communications database of over 150 stakeholders	Distribute through communications database of over 150 stakeholders
Popular Media				
Radio				
Video				
Newspapers				

This report will describe the progress against this matrix and the distribution of project communications to target stakeholders through each of the media used in turn.

A large part of the communications strategy was implemented through electronic media. The reasons for these were firstly the wide geographical reach of electronic media and secondly that materials could remain available and widely accessible beyond the lifespan of the project by making sure that they were available from websites and through listservs. At this time there have been few opportunities to distribute hard copies of the project communications products but it is expected that these will arise over the next few months and products will be made available as they arise.

3.1. Website Distribution

All documents are available through the FMSP website through the following address: www.fmosp.org/R8470. A copy of the updated webpage is provided in Appendix 1. The co-management documents have also been made available on the adaptive learning (<http://www.adaptivelearning.info>) and Stream (<http://www.streaminitiative.org/>) (Also see Appendix 1)

In addition links have also been sought with the following web-pages:

- **Eldis**: a internet gateway for development related research
- **ID21**: publishes articles and viewpoints on international development issues
- **CBNRM**: Community based natural resource management
- **OneFish**: a web portal for a range of information on fisheries management projects, programmes and initiatives in developing countries

At this point there have been seven copies of the co-management synthesis document downloaded from the adaptive learning website alone. Statistics on traffic on the FMSP website suggest that from the 13th November traffic on the three pages hosting products relating to the project (R8462, R8464 and R8470) are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Traffic on FMSP web pages hosting project products.

Project web page	Number of hits (13 Nov – 15 Dec)
R8462	57
R8464	135
R8470	74

As of the 15th December the number of downloads from the adaptive learning website of each of the co-management products was:

Co-management document: 9
Co-management synthesis: 2
Co-management policy brief: 4

3.2. Email Distribution

Each of the products was distributed by email to selected stakeholders. The range and numbers of target communications stakeholders receiving the products through the coordinated communications strategy are detailed in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Distribution of project products to target communications stakeholders.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Co-management document	Co-management synthesis	Co-management policy brief	Information collection policy brief	ParFish synthesis brief
Policy Influencers	11	11	66	60	74
National Implementing Agencies	115	115			18
Regional Implementing agencies	28	28			25
International Implementing agencies	15	15			
National research	8	8			7
Regional and International research	7	7			
Promotion organisations	10	10	10		
Capacity building organisations	4	4			
Consultants	2	2	2		

3.3. List servers

Emails were sent out on the Fish-folk list-server targeted at practitioners working on social issues related to fisheries management (see Appendix 2). There were no posts following up on this posting but there was a response from IIFET (International Institute for Fisheries Economics and Trade) asking if the products could be included in the IIFET newsletter and enquiring as to whether project staff would be interested in presenting on the topic at the IIFET meeting in 2006.

3.4. Newsletters

This includes a mix of both print and electronic newsletters as these are often available in both formats. Newsletter articles (see Appendix 3) have been prepared for:

- Eldis
- ID21
- Stream Media Monitor

The Eldis article provides an overview of the different publications and will provide a link to the FMSP web-page. The ID21 article covers the main messages in the documents and again provides a link to the full documents. The Stream Media Monitor is sent out to members of the Stream initiative (fisheries management in South East Asia) and highlights newly published documents.

In addition CBNRM news have also been approached with a view to highlighting the new publications, details of the publications will be highlighted in the next IIFET

Newsletter and the details have also been circulated within a Challenge Programme on Water and Food newsgroup.

3.5. Reports

The Project Final Technical Report (FTR) has been completed and was submitted for review. It is hoped that the choice of reviewer will provide an additional opportunity for the research messages contained in the report to be disseminated.

3.6. Updated Communications Matrix

Table 2 provided details of the intended communications activities to reach the different categories of communication stakeholder. The table below (Table 5) provides a summary of the progress so far against this matrix and the extent of dissemination of project products.

Table 5 Updated Progress against communications matrix.

	Policy Makers	Promotion organisations	Implementing agencies	Capacity building
Electronic				
Website	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis	Adaptive learning, FMSP, OneFish, CBNRM, CBNRM Asia, Eldis
CD				
Email	The co-management policy brief was written specifically for policy makers and was sent by email to 66 policy makers.	11 promotion organisations received the co-management document, co-management synthesis and co-management brief	115 national implementing agencies; 28 regional implementing agencies; 15 international implementing agencies; 15 research organisations were sent the co-management document and synthesis to provide access to lessons and tools from the FMSP projects.	4 Capacity building organisations received the co-management document and synthesis.
List Servers		FishFolk,	FishFolk	FishFolk
Telephone	Y	Y	Y	Y
Face-to-Face				
1-1 meetings	Y	N		
Group meetings	Y			
Workshops				
Conferences			N	N
Study Tours				
Print				
Journals				
Newsletters	STREAM Media Monitor, CBNRM News, Eldis, ID21	STREAM Media Monitor, CBNRM News, Eldis, ID21	STREAM Media Monitor, CBNRM News, Eldis, ID21	STREAM Media Monitor, CBNRM News
Reports	Project FTR		Project FTR	Project FTR
Guidelines			Distribute co-management synthesis	Distribute co-management synthesis
Policy Brief	Co-management policy brief, co-management summary brief	Co-management summary brief	Co-management policy brief, co-management summary brief	Co-management policy brief, co-management summary brief
Flyers/Briefs	The briefs were distributed through email as indicated above. The flyer is available on the FMSP website.	The briefs were distributed through email as indicated above. The flyer is available on the FMSP website.	The briefs were distributed through email as indicated above. The flyer is available on the FMSP website.	The briefs were distributed through email as indicated above. The flyer is available on the FMSP website.
Popular Media				
Radio				
Video				
Newspapers				

4. Uptake and potential uptake

While it is still too soon to establish the extent of adoption of the research messages, it is useful and instructive to consider some of the responses to the Project communications activities. On the whole the responses have been positive with only one person responding to say that they did not wish to receive further information. Some of the responses received by email as of 15th December are illustrated in Table 6 below.

Table 6 Initial responses to project communications.

Response	Organisation
Thanks for the mail and the attached documents which are useful information that will be use in our work	DFID Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme
Thanks very much Charlotte for those documents.	
Thanks a lot for these interest documents.	
Many grateful thanks	Fisheries Resource Division, FAO Fisheries Department
I have received your message with documents attached and I take this opportunity to thank you very much for your kind effort to inform us. Comments may follow late and have a nice week-end.	Burundi Fisheries Department
Thanks for the documents	CORDIO, Kenya
Nice to see some of the work we have supported is cited in this (Berkes et al, Pomeroy and Berkes etc). Let me know if any of your colleagues would be interested in further discussions.	Rural Poverty and Environment, International Development Research Centre
Thanks for sending this material. It comes very timely for us here in Dhaka (Department of Fisheries) when we are into discussions about the future of co-management.	Forth Fisheries Project, Bangladesh
No problem and thanks for thinking of the MM Report. There is a co management section that they will fit nicely into. Additionally if you would like to display the publications on the STREAM website, take a look at http://www.streaminitiative.org/Library/organizations/index.html where you will see the Policy Brief for data collection you forwarded recently. You can either embed the pdfs here or we can display the link to your site along with some descriptive text as some of the other organizations do.	STREAM Initiative
Many thanks for sending this; MRAG and the FMSP have certainly helped us to expand our fisheries section with several interesting articles.	Id21
I liked the FMSP co-management brief by the way – much praised by colleagues in FAO.	FAO Fisheries Division
I inform you that these books are very useful for me and I continue the reading to learn more about Co-management and also experiences gathered by the DFID Fisheries Management Science Programme.	Cote D'Ivoire Fisheries
Thanks for the attached files. I will use these materials for Fisheries Management course during next semester.	Asian Institute of Technology

Appendix 1: Webpages

a) FMSP webpage: <http://www.fmsp.org.uk/r8470.htm>



Fisheries Management Science Programme



- [Home Page](#)
- [Programme Summary](#)
- [Current Projects](#)
- [Final Technical Reports](#)
- [Search FTR's](#)
- [Software](#)
- [Bibliography](#)
- [Web Links](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Key Lessons](#)

Final Technical Reports

Synthesis of FMSP experience and lessons learned for fisheries co-management (R.8470)

Unfortunately, in many developing countries, and particularly in small-scale fisheries, centralised management arrangements have not been able to ensure the sustainable management of the fisheries resources on which so many depend. Because of this, and/or because of economically driven reforms and constraints, increasing attention has been given to the possibilities afforded by co-management.

Co-management provides an opportunity for a partnership arrangement in which government, local resource users (fishers), external agents (NGOs, academic and research organisations), and other fisheries and coastal resource stakeholders (boat owners, fish traders, money lenders, tourism establishments etc) share the responsibility and authority for decision making in the management of a fishery. However, the different objectives, perspectives and constraints of these stakeholder groups, while potentially increasing opportunities for improved and more sustainable management that meets the needs of all, can also be a source of difficulties when agreeing management roles and responsibilities.



A number of projects commissioned under the FMSP have sought to address issues around co-management and provide practical approaches tools and methodologies that can be used by development practitioners to assist in the development of working co-management arrangements that deliver improved and more sustainable benefits to those, including the poorest, who rely upon fisheries resources. This project aims to improve synthesise, and to make available in the most appropriate form, information on the lessons that have been learned concerning co-management from ten years of FMSP research. Many of these lessons have applicability beyond fisheries co-management and can inform more widely approaches to natural resources management. The FMSP has an important contribution to make in this area and outputs from this project containing a number of lessons are important and can help to shape future policy and inform development projects in fisheries as well as other natural resources.



Additional resources relating to ParFish, data collection and information sharing and adaptive learning can be found on the following pages:

- [ParFish](#)
- [Data collection and information sharing for co-managed fisheries](#)
- [Adaptive learning](#)

Download Documents	View PDF
Flyer - This is a two page flyer designed to highlight the project and the products that have been developed.	Download (111KB)
Booklet on Lessons - An accessible 40 page booklet that describes the co-management process, some of the issues around co-management policy and management plan formulation, implementation and evaluation. Describes some of the FMSP approaches, tools and methods that can assist in this process together with some of the FMSP experiences. Targeted at fisheries managers, researchers and facilitators.	Download (1.2MB)
Summary brief - A 10 page summary providing a quick overview of the lessons learned and the co-management tools that have been developed. Highlights the current challenges to successful co-management, principles for successful co-management and examples of how these principles have been put into practice through FMSP projects. Targeted at fisheries managers, researchers and facilitators.	Download (539KB)
Policy brief - The policy brief provides a summary of the lessons for co-management from a policy perspective. It describes the lessons learned through the FMSP programme of developing, implementing and evaluating policies to support co-management. Targeted fisheries policy and decision makers.	Download (420KB)

Contacts	
Contact	Dr Robert Arthur
Role	Project Leader
Email	r.arthur@mrag.co.uk

b) Stream Website:

<http://www.streaminitiative.org/Library/organizations/index.html>

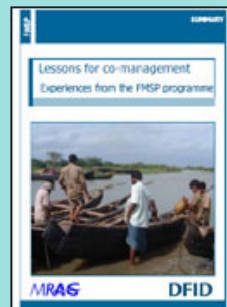
R8470: Synthesis of co-management lessons learned



 [1.14 MB] * Caution : Large file size *

Arthur, R.I. 2005. Co-management: a synthesis of the lessons learned from the DFID Fisheries Management Science Programme. MRAG Ltd, London

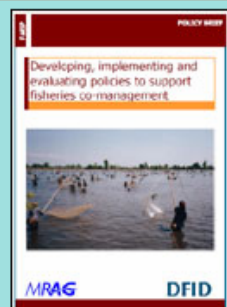
The first document in the series is a booklet reviewing the experiences of FMSP in fisheries co-management. The document is structured around the steps in the co-management process: policy formation; management planning; implementation and evaluation. It provides a collection of experiences and lessons learned together with tools and criteria that can be used at different stages of the management process. The booklet has been prepared for all institutions, individuals and organizations interested in fisheries management in a developing country context.




 [538 KB]

Howard, C. and Arthur, R.I. 2005 Lessons for co-management: experiences from the FMSP programme. MRAG Ltd, London.

The second document provides a rapid overview of the lessons learned and the tools developed through the FMSP projects. The brief covers the challenges of co-management, the principles that have been developed through international experience and how FMSP has developed tools to put these principles in practice. Key lessons are drawn out for the planning and evaluating of local co-management plans, and the wider institutional, legal and vulnerability constraints. This brief is targeted at fisheries managers, researchers and facilitators working to achieve successful fisheries co-management in a developing country context.




 [419 KB]

Arthur, R.I. 2005 Policy Brief: Developing, implementing and evaluating policies to support fisheries co-management. MRAG Ltd, London

The policy brief provides a summary of the lessons for co-management from a policy perspective. It describes the lessons learned through the FMSP programme of developing, implementing and evaluating policies to support co-management. It is targeted at fisheries policy and decision makers involved in the fisheries sector.

c) Adaptive Learning webpage:

<http://www.adaptivelearning.info/modules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index&req=viewdownload&cid=4>





The Adaptive Learning Web Site -- Downloads


[Main download area | New | Popular | Top rated]

Category: Other Resources

Sort downloads by: Title (A\Z) | Date (A\Z) | Rating (A\Z) | Popularity (A\Z)
Resources currently sorted by: Title (A to Z)

 [Co-management policy brief](#)
Description: The policy brief is a 12 page document that highlights the important implications for policy makers associated with fisheries co-management, particularly where the intention is to involve a range of stakeholders in management decision-making. The brief also highlights other resources available relating to co-management policy.
Version: | Filesize: 0 bytes
Added on: 08-Dec-2005 | Downloads: 4
[Homepage](#) | [Details](#)

 [Co-management synthesis](#)
Description: This is a synthesis of the experiences and lessons learned from the DFID funded Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP) relating to fisheries co-management. The synthesis draws on a number of projects, including adaptive learning, and presents some of the lessons learned along with tools and methods that can assist those interested in or involved in fisheries co-management.
Version: | Filesize: 110.35 Kb
Added on: 29-Nov-2005 | Downloads: 9
[Homepage](#) | [Details](#)

 [Co-management synthesis brief](#)
Description: The brief provides an introduction to fisheries co-management and highlights research commissioned by the DFID funded Fisheries Management Science Programme relating to co-managed fisheries, in particular adaptive learning, ParFish and data collection and information sharing systems.
Version: | Filesize: 0 bytes
Added on: 08-Dec-2005 | Downloads: 2
[Homepage](#) | [Details](#)

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Appendix 2: Submission to List servers

1) Fish-folk

Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2005 11:27:36 -0000
From: "Robert Arthur"
Subject: Fisheries co-management resources
To: FISHFOLK@MITVMA.MIT.EDU

Dear All,

I thought that I would write to inform you of some new resources relating to fisheries available from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP). In particular I would like to draw your attention to the recently produced booklet and briefs containing lessons and experiences relating to fisheries co-management arising from FMSP research. These products may be useful in informing some of the ongoing debates in this forum as well as raising a number of issues relating to co-managed fisheries. The associated briefs on data collection guidelines for co-managed fisheries and ParFish integrated stock assessment toolkit will also be of interest to many of you. All of these products can be accessed through the webpage www.fmsp.org.uk/r8470.htm

The FMSP website (www.fmsp.org.uk <<http://www.fmsp.org.uk/>>) also contains details and outputs, including guidelines and software, from a range of other research projects on marine and inland fisheries that may be of interest or use to members of this listserv.

Best regards,

Robert Arthur

Appendix 3: Examples of newsletter articles

1) Eldis Submission

Titles, Authors and Publishers

- 1) Arthur, R.I. 2005 Co-management: a synthesis of the lessons learned from the DFID Fisheries Management Science Programme. MRAG Ltd, London 40pp
- 2) Howard, C. and Arthur, R.I. 2005 Lessons for co-management: experiences from the FMSP programme. MRAG Ltd, London, 12pp Lessons for co-management: experiences from the FMSP Programme
- 3) Arthur, R.I. 2005 Developing, implementing and evaluating policies to support fisheries co-management. MRAG Ltd, London, 12pp

Abstract

There has been increasing interest in the potential for co-management to deliver sustainable managed fisheries that meet national objectives and support those that depend on the resource to meet some or all of their livelihood needs.

The DFID funded Fisheries management Science Programme has over the past 11 years researched constraints in the management of inland and marine fisheries in developing countries, and provided insights into co-managed fisheries and the co-management process.

The programme has published a series of documents to highlight the lessons learned, the experiences of putting co-management principles into practice and the tools that have been developed to address key constraints and challenges.

1) Co-management booklet: The first document in the series is a booklet reviewing the experiences of FMSP in fisheries co-management. The document is structured around the steps in the co-management process: policy formation; management planning; implementation and evaluation. It provides a collection of experiences and lessons learned together with tools and criteria that can be used at different stages of the management process. The booklet has been prepared for all institutions, individuals and organisations interested in fisheries management in a developing country context.

2) Synthesis brief: The second document provides a rapid overview of the lessons learned and the tools developed through the FMSP projects. The brief covers the challenges of co-management, the principles that have been developed through international experience and how FMSP has developed tools to put these principles in practice. Key lessons are drawn out for the planning and evaluating of local co-management plans, and the wider institutional, legal and vulnerability constraints. This brief is targeted at fisheries managers, researchers and facilitators working to achieve successful fisheries co-management in a developing country context.

3) Policy Brief. The policy brief provides a summary of the lessons for co-management from a policy perspective. It describes the lessons learned through the FMSP programme of developing, implementing and evaluating policies to support co-management. It is targeted at fisheries policy and decision makers involved in the fisheries sector.

Lessons learned from applying FMSP tools within co-managed fisheries:

- Involving stakeholders and their knowledge in the planning phases ensures that implementation is feasible and the outcomes relevant to stakeholder needs. However other experience has shown that it is also often necessary to reduce the vulnerability of stakeholders and increase their capacity before they are able to consider the sustainability of the fishery as a priority and engage in co-management;
- Establishing a common perception of the current state of the resource across stakeholder groups leads to an improved basis for management decision making;
- Cooperative research and understanding of stakeholder communications needs leads to improved sharing of information and more success in achieving a shared understanding of the resource;
- Co-management arrangements need to be flexible and respond to lessons learned. They should build on the strengths of different stakeholder groups rather than focusing only on addressing the weaknesses.

Principles emerged from FMSP experience for achieving successful co-management:

- ✓ Ensuring meaningful participation or representation in the management process;
- ✓ Creating transparency;
- ✓ Ensuring accountability;
- ✓ Developing management capability
- ✓ Ongoing evaluation and learning from doing

Policy messages:

- The lack of legal recognition of co-management groups and the rights of stakeholder groups is often a constraint to implementing management at the local level. It is therefore necessary to recognise rights through policies and legislation;
- The scale of management needs to match the scale of the resource and address the needs of full time, part time and migratory fishers as well as other stakeholders. This may require creation of nested administrative structures where stakeholders are involved or represented but where larger scale issues can be addressed;
- Supportive communications networks for shared decision making may require fundamental changes in institutional arrangements;
- Stakeholders will only be involved if they can see the benefits of doing so. It may be necessary to create incentives to ensure that benefits of participation outweigh the costs.
- There is a need to provide training, conflict resolution support and extension services to support co-management in practice.

Internet address

www.fmsp.org

Contacts

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2) ID21 Submission

Addressing the challenges of fisheries co-management: experiences of the DFID Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP).

A series of new publications have been released by DFID's Fisheries Management Science programme to provide an insight into the lessons learned for co-managed fisheries through a range of projects undertaken in Asia and Africa. The lessons and tools that have been developed focus on the challenges of planning, implementing and evaluating co-management on a local scale, but also have insights on some of the wider institutional and policy issues.

There has been increasing interest in the potential for co-management to deliver sustainable managed fisheries that meet national objectives and support those that depend on the resource to meet some or their livelihood needs, however there a number of challenges in achieving successful co-management.

The FMSP programme has undertaken research throughout Africa and Asia over the past 11 years focused on the constraints of implementing co-management at a local scale. This has included the challenge of achieving a shared knowledge base so that management can be based on a solid foundation; the challenge of ensuring that knowledge gained on the resource is directly linked and influences decision makers rather than remaining as research recommendations; and the ongoing difficulty of achieving meaningful involvement of stakeholders.

There has been a focus within the FMSP programme on developing tools for the use of local knowledge in decision making and an adaptive learning approach where management experiments are developed and implemented in collaboration with resources users to inform decision making. Tools have also been developed to assist with gaining an information base on the fishery which meets the needs of stakeholders and allows sharing and enhanced communications between different groups.

A series of lessons have been learned through the FMSP programme specifically on designing, implementing and evaluating local co-management plans:

- Involving stakeholders and their knowledge in the planning phases ensures that implementation is feasible and the outcomes relevant to stakeholder needs. However other experience has shown that it is also often necessary to reduce the vulnerability of stakeholders and increase their capacity before they are able to consider the sustainability of the fishery as a priority and engage in co-management;
- Establishing a common perception of the current state of the resource across stakeholder groups leads to an improved basis for management decision making;
- Cooperative research and understanding of stakeholder communications needs leads to improved sharing of information and more success in achieving a shared understanding of the resource;
- Co-management arrangements need to be flexible and respond to lessons learned. They should build on the strengths of different stakeholder groups rather than focusing only on addressing the weaknesses.

Wider lessons on policy issues include the following insights:

- The lack of legal recognition of co-management groups and the rights of stakeholder groups is often a constraint to implementing management at the local level. It is therefore necessary to recognise rights through policies and legislation;
- The scale of management needs to match the scale of the resource and address the needs of full time, part time and migratory fishers as well as other stakeholders. This may require creation of nested administrative structures where stakeholders are involved or represented but where larger scale issues can be addressed;
- Supportive communications networks for shared decision making may require fundamental changes in institutional arrangements;
- Stakeholders will only be involved if they can see the benefits of doing so. It may be necessary to create incentives to ensure that benefits of participation outweigh the costs.
- There is a need to provide training, conflict resolution support and extension services to support co-management in practice.

Principles emerged from FMSP experience for achieving successful co-management:

- ✓ Ensuring meaningful participation or representation in the management process;
- ✓ Creating transparency;
- ✓ Ensuring accountability;
- ✓ Developing management capability
- ✓ Ongoing evaluation and learning from doing

Internet address

www.fmosp.org

Contacts

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r.arthur@mrag.co.uk

3) Stream Media Monitor Article

Fisheries Management and Science Programme FMSP, Presents Lessons Learned for Fisheries Co-management
[fisheries co-management, small-scale fisheries, policy]

The DFID-FMSP Fisheries Management and Science Programme managed by MRAG London UK, has just released a series of publications outlining lessons learnt for fisheries co-management under the project “Synthesis of co-management lessons learned”

Background to Research and Co-Management

In many developing countries and in particular small-scale fisheries traditional centralized management arrangements have not been able to ensure sustainable management of the fisheries resources as a result and also due to economically driven reforms and constraints increased attention has been focussed on the potential opportunities provided by co-management. Co-management provides an opportunity for a partnership arrangement to be formed in which government, local resources users such as farmers and fishers, external agents such as NGOs, academic and research organizations and other fisheries and coastal resource stakeholders (boat owners, fish traders, money lenders, tourism establishments etc) share the responsibility and authority for the decision making and management of the fishery. However, the different objectives, perspectives and constraints of these stakeholder groups, while potentially increasing opportunities for improved and more sustainable management that meets the needs of all, can also be a source of difficulties when agreeing management roles and responsibilities.

A number of projects commissioned under the FMSP have sought to address the issues around co-management and provide practical approaches tools and methodologies that can be used by development practitioners to assist the development of working co-management arrangements that deliver improved and more sustainable benefits to those, including the poorest, who rely upon fisheries resources.

This project and the publications in the form of a co-management booklet, a synthesis brief and a Policy Brief aim to improve, synthesise and to make available in the most appropriate form, information on the lessons that have been learned concerning co-management from ten years of FMSP research. Many of these are applicable beyond the fisheries sector and can inform more widely approaches to natural resources management.

Latest Publications

Co-management Booklet

The first document in the series is a booklet reviewing the experiences of FMSP in fisheries co-management. The document is structured around the steps in the co-management process: policy formation; management planning; implementation and evaluation. It provides a collection of experiences and lessons learned together with tools and criteria that can be used at different stages of the management process. The booklet has been prepared for all institutions, individuals and organisations interested in fisheries management in a developing country context.

Synthesis Brief

The second document provides a rapid overview of the lessons learned and the tools developed through the FMSP projects. The brief covers the challenges of co-management, the principles that have been developed through international experience and how FMSP has developed tools to put these principles in practice. Key lessons are drawn out for the planning and evaluating of local co-management plans, and the wider institutional, legal and vulnerability constraints. This brief is targeted at fisheries managers, researchers and facilitators working to achieve successful fisheries co-management in a developing country context.

Policy Brief

The policy brief provides a summary of the lessons for co-management from a policy perspective. It describes the lessons learned through the FMSP programme of developing, implementing and evaluating policies to support co-management. It is targeted at fisheries policy and decision makers involved in the fisheries sector.

The documents are available to view via the FMSP website at www.fmsp.org.uk (search for the project within the on-line database), the adaptive learning website (www.adaptivelearning.info) and they can also be accessed through the Other Organizations page of the STREAM Virtual library at <http://www.streaminitiative.org/Library/organizations/index.html>

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