

EAFM for Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEAD)



Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

High-level Consultation for Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEAD)

Hai Phong / Quang Ninh,
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

17-18 October 2016

Summary

A consortium of agencies and projects working in fisheries in South East and South Asia had developed a very systematic training course on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (“Essential EAFM”) since 2012 and provided training to many middle level managers apart from capacitating a set of trainers in the region. But the need of sensitizing the senior fisheries officers, involved in planning and policy making in the countries, was realized to take forward EAFM in the countries. The information materials that could be used to inform LEAD (Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers) about EAFM was developed and fine tuned. SEAFDEC as part of the REBYC II CTI project took up EAFM LEAD program in Vietnam in October 2016. The participants were senior and middle level officers from the Department of Fisheries. The EAFM LEAD workshop was conducted following an eight sessions structured program resulting in the participants going back home with conceptual clarity and with an understanding of the importance of introducing EAFM in fisheries management in Vietnam.

1. Background

The Coral Triangle region of Southeast Asia is one of the world’s most biologically diverse, economically productive and potentially vulnerable marine zones. Increasing populations and exploitation pressures, growing threats from pollution and major ecosystem change are a particular concern in the region. Also – as more widely in the global context – the non-targeted capture of fish and non-fish species, commonly called bycatch and discards, is an increasing concern. Bycatch includes fish, marine turtles, corals and other seabed fauna and flora. This part of the catch tends to be poorly monitored and not managed but could have an important impact on overall health of fishery resources, habitats and ecosystems.

In some fisheries and regions, there is an increasing trend towards retention of the bycatch, consisting of juveniles and small-sized fishes, for both human consumption and aqua feed. This is a complex issue, requiring resource and biodiversity aspects to be tackled alongside human needs and integrated with policy, regulatory, technical and community support measures.

The project “Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management” (REBYC-II CTI) was conceived based on the successes of the 2002-2008 FAO/UNEP/GEF global project “Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling through the Introduction of Bycatch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management”. The REBYC-II CTI project focuses on managing the multispecies bottom trawling, where bycatch issues are amongst the most serious, with potentially significant effects on ecosystems and livelihoods. The Project is addressing these challenges by promoting sustainable fishing practices and improved trawl management.

The REBYC-II CTI project was developed under the leadership of FAO (project implementing agency) in close collaboration with its partners: Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the Governments of the participating countries, *i.e.* Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Vietnam’s existing laws, policies, and institutional arrangements for trawl fisheries management and bycatch issues may not be sufficient to meet international/regional requirements such as those of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). To enhance Vietnam’s capacity, policy and institutional reform it is necessary to enable and strengthen its fisheries management administrations. Recognition of national responsibility towards international and regional requirements in relation to bycatch issues should be improved through stakeholders’ participation approach in trawl fisheries management. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) that integrates approaches of co-management, community based management, marine spatial planning, etc., can enhance fisheries institutional reform significantly.

EAFM is a result of heightened awareness of the importance of interactions among fishery resources, and between fishery resources and the ecosystems, including the human dimension, within which they exist. A further incentive has been the recognition of the multiple objectives and values of fishery resources and marine ecosystems within the context of sustainable development. In addition, it is considered essential to disseminate information about the poor state of the fisheries along with recent advances in science that highlight both knowledge and uncertainties about the functional value of ecosystems and the ecosystem services derived from them..

With aforementioned perspective, from 7 to 11 September 2015, with the technical support from FAO and SEAFDEC, the Essential EAFM Training Course had been organized in Kien Giang Province. The training aimed to enhance knowledge and capacity on planning and implementing EAFM in Viet Nam. The training assisted local authorities in four provinces of Viet Nam to develop, implement and evaluate EAFM plans, and to formulate a framework and timeframe for the development of the Kien Giang Trawl Fisheries Management Plan.

Considering the outputs of EAFM training course for provinces, it is necessary not only to increase the awareness on the concept of EAFM for local authorities, but also of the national policy makers. The understanding about EAFM among Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEAD) who are involved in planning and policy making for fisheries management in the countries should be strengthened. In this context EAFM LEAD toolkits were developed by SEAFDEC with support of the REBYC II CTI Project, NOAA, and IMA International-UK. The EAFM High-level Consultation for Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEAD) in Vietnam was organized from 17-18 October 2016.

2. Title:

EAFM High-level Consultation for Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEAD)

3. Objective:

1. Promote the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and provide opportunities for leaders, executives and decision-makers (LEADs) to understand and support the ecosystem approach to achieve sustainable fisheries management through improved planning and implementation.
2. Introduce the LEAD EAFM Toolkit to LEAD EAFM Facilitators of Viet Nam

4. Expected outputs:

1. Participants at national level obtain overall knowledge on EAFM;
2. Report on the EAFM High-level Consultation for Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEAD)

5. Expected Outcome

Enhanced experience for conducting the EAFM Reception for Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEADs) at the 39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM), organized in Indonesia, 28-30 November 2016.

6. Date and venue

Date: 17-18 October 2016; Venue: Hai Phong/Quang Ninh Province, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

7. Agenda and program followed

The original one day agenda for EAFM LEAD was modified to one and a half day considering the need of translation into Vietnamese language,

Day 1

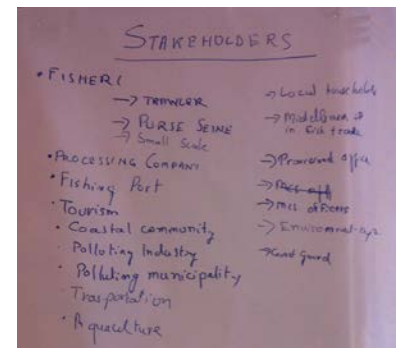
Agenda	Partial details of Workshop
1. Opening and Introductions	Welcome speech speeches by SEAFDEC National Project Coordinator for Viet Nam, Ms. Nguyễn Thị Trang Nhung Keynote address by Mr. Muralidharan Chavakat Manghat, Project REBYC-II CTI Regional Coordinator. Mr. Isara Chanrachkij explained the structure of the EAFM LEAD process.
2. Threats, Issues, and Vision for	In this agenda, the objective was to help participants to begin thinking more holistically beyond fisheries and in the broader development



Participants were assigned to brainstorm on the global/regional conventions, instruments and arrangements relating to fisheries and within the three components of EAFM. This exercise familiarized them with the key global/regional conventions, instruments and arrangements relating to fisheries.

5. EAFM Planning Process and importance of EAFM plans

This session focused on EAFM planning process and importance of EAFM plans by introducing the EAFM management cycle and the EAFM planning process to participants.



Main Stakeholders of fisheries industry were identified and the techniques on prioritization based on their roles were discussed.

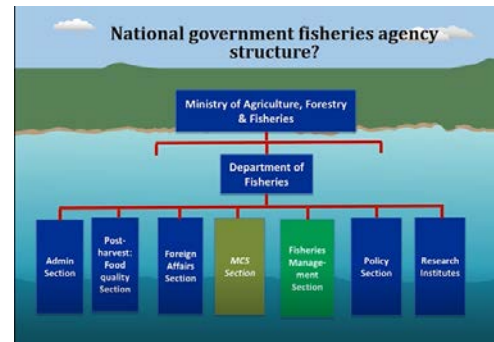
Participants practiced on the EAFM planning process through the EAFM cycle diagram of Plan/Do/Check cycle. They obtained the techniques on engaging stakeholders, agreeing on management area, prioritizing issues, developing goals, objectives and management actions to address the issues.



Day 2

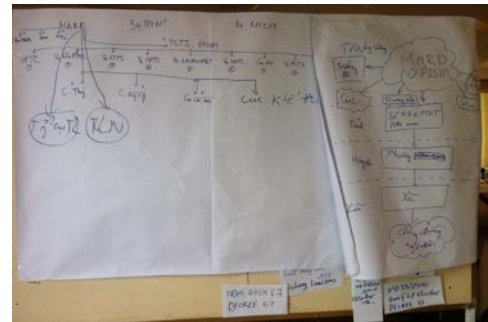
6. EAFM- institutional and management structures

The session on the EAFM institutional and management structures had the objective to help participants recognize the importance of having effective governance framework in place and supported by a functional fishery management



Participants were encouraged to discuss on existing management gaps, based on following questions:

1) What are the gaps in your existing structure to support EAFM and what modifications would you make to move toward an EAFM, 2) What other levels of government should you collaborate with, and 3) What other sectors, e.g. police, shipping, tourism, agriculture, development should you collaborate/engage with?

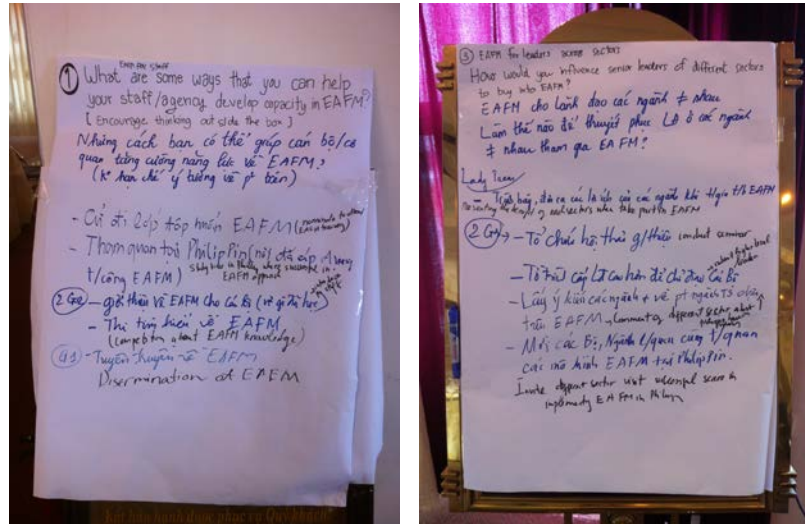


7. Next steps and Action Plan

In the session on next steps and action plan the objective was to identify challenges and opportunities for the leaders' country/locality in moving towards EAFM, the benefits of EAFM to them and to discuss what they are going to do after the consultation for themselves, their agency and their country. The activity of the "Circle of Influence" - challenges and opportunities was facilitated.



Participants also discussed “What are the benefits to them?” Discussion on Next Steps was based on the following questions: 1) Reflection: What are next steps that you, as an individual, can take to move toward an EAFM, 2) What are next steps your agency can take to move toward an EAFM, and 3) What are next steps your country can take to move toward EAFM.



8. Closing

Closing session and certificate distribution was led by Mr. Muralidharan Chavakat Manghat. The feedback of the participants was asked for. The participants were happy about the orientation provided on EAFM. Some of the middle level and junior officers who participated expressed desire to undergo a full 5-6 days training course on EAFM. The participants were thanked for their active participation and cooperation.

* Remark: After the closing ceremony, the group of participants, facilitators, and organizers needed to evacuate the venue, as a typhoon was expected to hit at Quang Ninh province the same afternoon.

8. List of Participants

No	Name	Position
1	Đặng Văn Cường	Viet Nam Institute of Fisheries and Economic Planning
2	Hoàng Dương	Viet Nam Institute of Fisheries and Economic Planning
3	Vũ Phi Hải	Center for Registration of Fishing vessels
4	Nguyễn Hạnh Luyện	Department of Resources Surveillance
5	Nguyễn Thị Thu Cúc	Department of Resources Surveillance
6	Nguyễn Thùy Dương	Department of Aquatic Resources Conversation and Development

7	PhạmThị Phương Mai	Department of Aquatic Resources Conversation and Development
8	Nguyễn Th ịHiền	Administration Dept of D-Fish
9	Nguyễn Bá Sơn	Department of Aquaculture
10	Nguyễn Thành Mạnh	Department of Planning and Financial of D-Fish
11	Nguyễn Việt Phương	Analysis and Verification Center for Aquaculture
12	Hoa Duy Hải	Department of Planning of MARD
13	Nguyễn Minh Phương	Department of Legislation and Inspection
14	PhạmViệt Anh	Department of Capture Fisheries
15	Nguyễn Thị Hồng Nhung	Science, Technology and International Cooperation Dept.
16	Sở QN	Sub Dept of MARD in Quang Ninh
17	Chi Cục QN	Sub-Dept of D-Fish
18	Nguyễn Thị Trang Nhung	Science, Technology and International Cooperation Dept.
19	Trần Thị Diễm Lan	International Cooperation Dept of MARD
20	Lê Văn Ninh	Fisheries Information Center

9. List of Facilitators and Resource persons

No	Name	Position
1	Mr. Muralidharan Chavakat Manghat	Field Admin. Officer and Project Regional Coordinator in Charge
2	Mr. Sayan Promjinma	Project Regional Coordinator
3	Mr. Isara Chanarchkij	Resource person
4	Ms. Panitnard Taladol	Facilitator
5	Ms. Siriporn Pangsorn	Facilitator
6	Ms. Nathacha Sornvaeree	Regional Administrative Officer