

INFORMATION FOR CO-MANAGEMENT

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION

This flyer is the second in a series following the development of guidance to support the design of data collection systems for co-managed fisheries. It aims to raise

- The importance of information to successful co-management.
- What Guidance is available?
- Who is the Guidance for?
- Where is the Guidance being tested?



Why develop co-management information systems?

Box: Types of information to support management

Information is vital to be able to make informed choices and decisions concerning the management of natural resources.

There are **four** basic categories of information typically required to support co-management arrangements (see box).

With the shift towards fisheries co-management (including decentralised and collaborative approaches) there is a need for managers to reflect upon their new roles and reconsider their information requirements.

Policy	Information to formulate and evaluate national fisheries policy and development plans.
Planning	Information to formulate and adapt local management plans.
Implementation	Information to implement management plans including enforcing rules and regulations.
Evaluation	Information to evaluate implementation of local management plans.

What Guidance is available?

Data collection systems must be designed to support the diverse needs of a range of potential stakeholders according to their objectives, capacity, and available resources.

In order to meet the growing need for simple guidance to develop data collection systems to support co-management the following products have been developed:

1) Technical Guidelines providing details on an eight-stage participatory process for designing data collection and sharing systems for co-managed fisheries.

The Guidelines also provide examples of data types that can be selected and an overview of data sources and collection methods.

This will be published as an FAO Technical Paper.

2) Field Guide

A summary of the Technical Guidelines and a practical guide for putting data collection and sharing systems into practice.

In addition to these two main products this project will also produce the following:

- **Policy brief:** synthesising the main points in the context of fisheries co-management issues;
- **Newsletters:** articles within collaborators publications
- **Leaflets:** providing guidance on the importance of data and information in co-management.

The eight-stage participatory design proc-

Information for Co-management

Who is the Guidance for?



Discussion of results from catch composition surveys with users, Lao PDR

The Guidance can be used by Local Management Institutions (LMIs), National Fisheries Management; Non Governmental Organisations (involved in fisheries management), Fisheries Research Institutes, Fisheries Training Organisations and other stakeholders.

It is hoped that at the local level, the Guidelines will enable fisher community to make informed choices and decisions concerning the co-management of their resources to improve their livelihoods.

The Guidelines will also assist national fisheries departments to design appropriate systems to generate data and information to:

- Meet national and international reporting responsibilities;
- Define information needs to inform policy;
- Share lessons of success (and failure) among local managers;
- Design monitoring systems for management plans;
- Coordinate local management activities.

Where is the Guidance being tested?

The Technical Guidelines and Field Guide were developed in collaboration with a range of

collaborators, involving institutions and stakeholders from all management and advisory levels (see box).

Project Collaborators:

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Lao, the Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) Project managed by the Worldfish Center, Bangladesh, 4th Fisheries Project managed by Bangladesh Department of Fisheries, the Integrated Lake Management Project, Uganda (ILM), the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) in West Africa and the Regional Fisheries Information Systems Project (RFIS) in Southern Africa.

The current project will further evaluate the Guidelines and Field Guide through test case studies in the Lower Mekong Basin under the MRC's River and Reservoir Fisheries Project, and in Bangladesh under the Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM2), Fourth Fisheries and MACH projects.

Feed-back will also be sought from managers of the fisheries of Lake Victoria who have used the guidelines to aid management planning and the identification of appropriate data collection strategies.



Testing of the Guidelines with stakeholders in Bangladesh.

Following further testing the Guidelines and Field Guide will be updated and made available to a range of stakeholders (see below).

Further information

Further information can be obtained from:

Website	Download Technical Reports, Flyers, Policy Briefs and related information.	www.fmisp.org.uk/r8462.htm
FAO Technical Paper	The Technical Guidelines and Field Guide will be available as a FAO Technical Paper.	Request from contacts below or FAO

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