



**UNDP/GEF PROJECT:
SULU-CELEBES SEA SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

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First Technical Workshop:
Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
Manila, Philippines
12-13 April 2011

Report of Workshop

1. INTRODUCTION

The first technical workshop was organized by the Project Management Office (PMO) to further clarify the Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project. The workshop participants are experts in fisheries from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines and representatives of Conservation International, United Nations Development Program, and United Nations Office for Project Services, and National Economic Development Authority, Philippines (Annex 1).

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The Senior Fisheries Expert introduced the workshop documents, objectives, and the expected outputs as follows:

2.1 Objectives:

- 2.1.1 To have a common understanding among the experts countries on the operationalization of the technical components of the Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project;
- 2.1.2 To align the Outcome and Outputs of the project with the guidelines for the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management;
- 2.1.3. To agree on the indicators and methods for gathering and monitoring data; and
- 2.1.4. To estimate costs for implementing Demonstration Site activities;

3. OVERVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL COMPONENTS, OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS

The expected outcomes and outputs of each of the technical components of the project are summarized below:

3.1. Component 1 – Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

A TDA for the regional was undertaken in 2002 using Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA). As the TDA is nearly 10 years old, it needs to be updated with the more current data and information available. Therefore, the project will produce a TDA that is more technically robust, containing the immediate and root causes. The TDA will provide an objective scientific basis to produce the SAP.

3.2. Component 2 – Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

This document will contain the recommendations for regional and national legal, policy, and institutional reforms for improved fisheries management.

3.3. Component 3 – Institutional Strengthening

This component will include: a) Strengthening of Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) Tri-Com and Sub-com for Sustainable Fisheries; b) convening of Inter-ministerial Co-ordinating Committee (IMCC) in each country to help implement SAP and Actions Plans of the SSME.

3.4. Component 4 – Demonstration Sites

Activities will contribute to better understanding of small pelagic stocks (population level, biology and ecology), demonstrate best fisheries management practices, increase fish stocks 5-10%, strengthen management plans focusing on fisheries management, inter-sectoral involvement in the development and implementation of management plans, per capita income increased by 10% (fishing and non-fishing activities).

3.5. Component 5 – Knowledge Management

Activities under this component will disseminate information and knowledge products within and beyond the region. Project partners can upload information to the project website via the PMO or share the information with IW:LEARN.

3.6. Operationalization of Components and Activities

Ms. Cabanban explained the relationship and inter-linkages among the components. The participants shared their views and recommendations for project implementation. The discussion included whether income from fishing and non-fishing activities were to be combined or separated. The project should also agree on the baseline – from project start or from best current available data. These issues were re-visited and decided during the workshop sessions.

Participants shared their experiences in fisheries project implementation as follows:

- Mr. Sungkwon Soh gave the example from West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA). As the East Asian region covered by the project doesn't have enough data particularly on tuna where there are high catches in West Pacific area, the WPEA focus is on data collection, and building infrastructure to collect data. As it will take time to build infrastructure and collect data, management will come at a later stage. Mr. Soh also suggested to focus on a few tangible outputs, focus on select few species, decide on indicators, and

limit the scope in space such as the areas where the selected species to be managed are extant.

- Mr. Noel Barut informed the meeting that the Philippines has started collecting data from the Sulu Sea to come up with a sardine management plan. National stock assessment is being carried out. The closure of fishing area/season to be put in place for sardines combined with project findings can validate if the closure helps increase fish stocks.
- Mr. Benjamin Francisco shared the experiences of increasing fish stock and biomass – fisheries independent and dependent surveys from FAO Regional Fisheries Livelihood Programme and the FISH Project. Removal of fishing gear that seemed to be causing overfishing showed that some sites increased biomass, but others decreased. Over nine sites, the mean was a 13 to 14% increase. However, 4 ICM plans for fisheries were not successful due to political issues, such as no agreement on how to delineate municipal water boundaries. Mr. Francisco further gave the example of Zamboanga del Norte where the municipality can control fishing effort at the local site through working with municipal mayors, but cannot control commercial fishers beyond 15km of the coastal line. He stated that the support from local fishers association could be helpful for local scale activities.
- Mr. Purwanto shared the experience from the Java and Arafura Seas, Indonesia, where it is difficult to control the fishing effort along the coast. It took more than 5 years to see any reduction in fishing effort. Mr. Purwanto suggested that the project consider local species as it is more difficult to work with migratory species. Also CPUE and income fluctuate a lot. Therefore, development of indicators may be specific for certain species.
- Mr. Wudianto stated that it is important to decide on the species first, in order to proceed with the stock assessment work.
- Ms. Evangeline Miclat asked if the project website could include minutes and other information about SSME. The PMO informed the workshop that the project website contains a link to SSME website already, but also can upload SSME information as an additional portal to access the information.

4. UPDATES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNICAL COMPONENTS: TDA, SAP, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING, AND DEMONSTRATION SITES

TDA and SAP

Mr. Sammy Resma gave an update on Conservation International's (CI) coordination of the TDA and SAP noting that the contract had been signed and a revised workplan had been submitted to UNOPS. A Project Manager has been hired and will formally start work in late April. An internal project team and brainstorming for 1st Regional Workshop have been carried out. He informed the workshop that the dates for the 5th SSME Sub-com Fisheries Meeting were 12-13 May 2011. The first TDA Regional Workshop could be held afterwards, but CI requested a one month delay in the start in order to have more time for planning. Malaysia agreed with CI that the project should not rush the work and sacrifice on quality on output.

CI presented a timeline to prepare the TDA and SAP that the workshop participants reviewed and asked for clarification. **It was tentatively agreed to hold the first Regional TDA Workshop in mid-June 2011 in Manila.**

The PMO clarified that a regional workshop should be held before the national workshops. This is to transfer knowledge on how the TDA should be done, and identify the regional perceived problems to be worked on for national level data and information collection.

Ms. Chiang further explained that the first Regional Workshop will:

- 1) include a tutorial on the method to formulate the TDA;
- 2) gauge expert opinion on the perceived transboundary problems. This is where experts may bring to the workshop data and information to help refute or support the problems and prioritise the problems. If there is enough data and knowledge, perhaps a causal chain analysis could already be done for that particular problem.
- 3) carry-out a sample exercise on the causal chain analysis.
- 4) Plan the next steps to gather information to fill the gaps and to support the problems or refute them.

Malaysia requested to view the proposal submitted by CI to better plan and support the tasks under the CI. **PMO agreed to share the proposal with the National Coordinators (NCs), and CI agreed to prepare a “kit” to help all countries prepare for the first Regional Workshop. The kit would include items such as the experts that will participate, data and information to bring to the workshop, what to prepare technically for the workshop. CI will also prepare for consultation with each NC the TOR of experts in one week, and suggest expert members for finalisation with the NC.**

Ms. Chiang informed the workshop that NC grants include budget to attend SSME and project events and that each SSME contact person can include the NC as part of the participating team to the regional TDA Workshops.

Institutional Strengthening and Demonstration Sites

Mr. Purwanto summarised the establishment and appointment of members of the National Coordination Unit. For activities in the field, country co-financing and other national activities will contribute to the project. Similar national stock assessment activities will complement demonstration site activities. Some paperwork from Indonesia side needs to be finalised, such as the national regulation to register each project in order to receive international funds. Internal discussions and talks with PMO were held on demo site activities. Indonesia will sample a wider geographic scope in north Sulawesi and East Kalimantan. Based on the results, **Indonesia would like to consider perhaps changing the demo site from Tarakan** to another nearby site that would be more appropriate for regional collaboration, and more complementary to the project objectives. He envisioned that before end of the year, a decision could be made if they demo site would change or not. The success of the project depends on controlling the landing area and effort management, so Indonesia would like to have better understanding of the local situation and cooperation with the local agencies. Mr. Subhat Nurhakim informed the workshop that species management plans exist in some areas for some species and the information will be used to help finalise the decision on the demo site. **Participants from Indonesia also agreed that a site-specific management plan may be done in conjunction with the wider Sulawesi regional management plan.**

Ms. Norasma Dacho informed the workshop that the National Coordination Unit (NPU) team, Site Coordinator, and country co-financing for 2011 have been obtained in both in-kind and in-cash. Malaysia has started coordinating with CI for Components 1 and 2. For the activity on demo site background, Department of Fisheries Sabah (DOFS) has signed the agreement and appointed a consultant team. NC has facilitated information to find consultants to undertake the various activities. The demo and replication sites have been agreed and will not change. The Semporna site already has a site specific management plan that needs to be improved. Finally, Ms. NORasma provided proposed dates for upcoming SSME meetings as follows:

- Sub-com Fisheries 12-13 May 2011;
- MPA 25-27 May 2011;
- Threatened Species 22-23 June 2011;
- 6th Tri-Com 28-30 June 2011.

Ms. Norasma recommended that the progress of this project's implementation be reported to the SSME Tri-Com Meetings.

Mr. Noel Barut informed the workshop that the Philippines has formulated a National Committee consisting of 8 members from government (Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippine Council for Marine and Aquatic Research and Development), Conservation International, independent experts; Site Coordinator and Site Committee has been established with members from Zamboanga City, State College and Region IX BFAR office, Industrial Group of Zamboanga City. Site members have been briefed about the project and each member and group's role explained. Mr. Barut mentioned that Palawan has now been included as part of the demo site as the sardine management plan is for the whole Sulu Sea area. He has been collaborating with other on-going projects to get a bigger picture of the Sulu Sea sardine status. He will also discuss with SEAFDEC on a fish egg survey project in Sulu Sea. Other accomplishments included: 1) the signing of the MoA between NFRDI and UNOPS; 2) provision of office space for PMO; and 3) extra staff from NFRDI to assist the project.

Mr. Padilla noted that all countries have progressed well in project implementation. He reminded the workshop that the project was not bound by what is stated in the Project Document for the demonstration site, and it was up to the country to change the site as long as there is good reason for the switch.

Ms. Chiang reminded the workshop on the need for the annual Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC) gathering, and the importance to have various agencies involved and aware of the project as early as possible. This would help project implementation, and also the endorsement of the SAP.

Ms. Chiang then explained to the workshop the institutional strengthening consultancy that will focus on strengthening the SSME committees. SSME is currently a tri-national forum that has been formally endorsed by the 3 governments of Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. This consultancy will identify the gaps of the sub-committees and Tri-Com to strengthen them and to help the SSME be more sustainable.

Ms. Ahsanal Kasasiah suggested that the project report its implementation progress to the Tri-Com on a regional scale, rather than individual country reports.

Mr. Padilla mentioned that the region might wish to have a more formal entity in the future for regional fisheries management. He suggested that the consultants, during their work, could gather the countries' view on how a "commission" or other kind of management body would be viewed by countries vs. committees, even government endorsed committees. This information would be helpful for longer-term SAP implementation. **The PMO took note of the suggestion and will pass it on to the consultants to include in the work.**

Stock Definition of Small Pelagic Fishes

Mr. Mudjekeewis Santos briefed the workshop on the concept to analyse genetic stock structure of small pelagic species. He explained that 5 species were originally considered according to the following criteria:

- distribution;
- commonality among the 3 countries;
- abundance;
- commercial importance; and
- prior work not yet done on the species.

Based on the above criteria, the species were then short-listed based on available budget for analyses. Decapterus has been widely studied and data is available so this species should not be worked on under this project. Mr. Santos also wished to expand the sampling area, but due to budget limitation, has to limit to 3 species from the project demo sites.

Three small pelagic species (*Auxis thazard*, *Sardinella lemuru*, *Selar crumenophthalmus*) are initially suggested for study. There is a need to know if the stocks are single or multiple stocks in order to better manage the stocks. Initial data of yellow fin tuna in the Philippines show that there might be 2 groups of this organism in the Philippines that is mixing with each other. Stocks may be divided by geography or another factor to be determined. By knowing the kinds and number of stocks that exist, one can use the information to jointly or independently manage the stocks. Mr. Santos also confirmed that *S. lemuru* is distributed throughout the region, and once properly trained, a person can easily morphologically identify the species.

Participants gave other information pertaining to the existence, distribution, health, and migration of other species in order to help finalise the species to be analysed. The management plans to be developed should also match the species that will be studied. **After comparing the species widely distributed in each country, it was agreed to study the following 3 species:**

- 1) ***Selar crumenophthalmus***
- 2) ***Sardinella lemuru***
- 3) ***Rastrelliger kanagurta***

Should there be additional budget, it was agreed to also analyse *Auxis* and/or *Decapterus kurroides*.

Muscle tissue will be collected from other countries to analyse at NFRDI. The contractor will also train personnel to collect and identify species. Ideally the entire fish should be collected for analysis. The contractor will discuss with the countries the best and legal way to collect samples.

At the end of the agenda, clarification was provided from PMO to UNDP on the contracting procedures of UNOPS whereby contracts can be amended to add on tasks if the same contractor will be selected for the next step of demo site activity. Contractors do not need to wait to complete a contract before another one is issued, particularly for continuation or building onto previous work. However, it should be noted that cumulative contract amounts past USD 250,000 within 12 months would have to undergo another set of contract approval rules from UNOPS. It was also explained by PMO that the flow of funds depended on various paperwork to be completed by all parties before funds can be transferred. The participants understood and took note of the explanations.

5. ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Ms. Cabanban gave a brief overview on the FAO Guidelines to Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (Annex 2).

6. WORKSHOP SESSION 1 – ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT OUTCOME, ACTIVITIES, AND OUTPUTS WITH THE EAF PROCESS

The table below is relevant only to Project Component 4. This was an exercise for participants to align component 4 objectives to the EAF approach for better understanding of how the project will fit into the EAF approach for fisheries management. Output 4.1 is applicable to all steps.

<u>EAF Process</u>	<u>Outputs</u>
Scoping	4.1
Background information analysis	4.1, 4.4
Setting objectives	4.1, 4.5
Formulation of rules	4.1, 4.2; 4.3
Implementation and enforcement	4.1, 4.2; 4.3
Monitoring	4.1, 4.2; 4.3
Review Short-term Long-term	4.1, 4.2

7. WORKSHOP SESSION 2 – DISCUSSION AND FINALIZATION OF INDICATORS AND DATA COLLECTION OF STATUS OF FISHERIES IN DEMONSTRATION SITES

A discussion was held on the different indicators needed to determine the status of fisheries in the demonstration sites. Participants suggested many additional indicators required to be collected in order to have the necessary information prior to producing science-based management plans at the demonstration sites (Annex 3).

Participants questioned the project outcome to increase fish stock 5-10%, stating that it is not a realistic goal as 5-10% is just background noise and most probably cannot be achieved during the project lifetime. One could attempt to illustrate this through suggesting the number of fishing boats to decommission, but to look only at CPUE is too simplistic, and other factors need to be examined.

It was agreed that if the project keeps this outcome, it should focus on small pelagics at the demonstration sites. The species to target should include the 3 species agreed for stock definition, but also include other important small pelagic species at the demonstration site, as there is a need to examine other fish that contribute to the entire ecosystem's integrity.

For methodology to determine regional stock increase, Indonesia agreed to use the method employed by Philippines just for this project, since the methodology varies across all three countries.

8. WORKSHOP SESSION 3 – ESTIMATION OF COSTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE DATA COLLECTION

The PMO explained the procedure of disbursement of funds from UNOPS to the implementing partners. The National Coordinating Units were encouraged to submit proposals and budgets to bid for project activities. Ms. Chiang also reminded the participants to match the proposal and budget and give as much detail as possible so that few questions would be asked to clarify items in the proposal and budget. An exercise to prepare a budget was not conducted to allow more time for discussions on technical matters.

The PMO also clarified how the tranches of payment varied somewhat from contract to contract depending on the nature of work. Funds are usually paid based on meeting milestones. The participants suggested that the last tranche could be less due to limitations in some institutions on accessing the funds after the activity is completed. PMO explained that the payment schedule could be discussed and agreed before contract signing and one option was to have more payments with lesser amounts for each payment or more equally distributed amounts for each payment.

9. INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The PMO informed the participants that the project management office will be able to provide technical support and the ways and means that these can be availed of. Ms. Norasma expressed that Malaysia would like to avail of the technical expertise from the project's Senior Fisheries Expert. This will be officially expressed in writing to the PMO. Ms. Norasma also stated that Malaysia is ready to implement the project, and emphasised that delayed payments affect staff and consultant salaries, although the NC was not affected as the time spent on the project is through co-financing.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Padilla reminded the workshop that the Project Implementation Report (PIR) needed to be done in June and would send the forms to the PMO to complete the reporting, but was not sure how much time the PMO would be given to do the PIR. The PMO also explained that these technical workshops would be held regularly once the PSC approves the project to have a Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

11. CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

All participants felt that the workshop was very fruitful, and will use the information shared to help implement project. Participants were confident that they could achieve the project objectives and will continue efforts and cooperation to see that the project is implemented smoothly. Any outstanding paperwork would be finalised as soon as possible so that all countries can proceed at the same rate to implement the project. Participants felt that the workshop met 95% of the objectives, and just needed to finalise the fisheries indicators.

Participants thanked each other for the inputs that resulted in a productive workshop, guidance to start the TDA and SAP, collaboration from all partners, and continuation of this gathering through the Technical Advisory Group.