

GROUP WORK- POLICY GAPS AND CONSTRAINTS – SOUTH EAST ASIA

Output of policy gaps and constraints by South East Asia group.

Gaps in Policy

Fisheries

Long term outcome targets - Needs long term vision and targets in their fisheries policy and national policy

THAILAND

- Have good policy

MALAYSIA

- National fisheries strategic plan 2011-2020
- Strategies to develop capture fisheries, aquaculture

INDONESIA

- Have good policy and document governing

MYANMMAR-

- According to survey, do have good policy implemented
- Forestry Department were not aware of the existence of policy in fisheries
- Do have conflicts in managing areas like mangrove between fisheries and forestry department.

MAIN GAPS IN THE POLICY

Targets Settings

MALAYSIA

- Production targets (sustained for capture fisheries)
- More increase targets for aquaculture

THAILAND

- Aquaculture do have production targets
- Capture fisheries remain

INDONESIA

- Production targets with concerns with sustainability

MYANMAR

- 30 years master plan for forestry
- 10 years management plan with reviews every year

Are targets set sectoral or through consultation between departments/agencies?

MALAYSIA

- Consultation with stakeholders in the sectors
- Targets were done not based on current data
- Some mechanism exist in conflict resolution e.g. mesh sizes according to zones
- Consideration were done based on data but the lack of current status to guide the target settings (outdated data)

MALAYSIA

- No clear guidelines of how much can be exported or used domestically
- Very much dependent on the market forces
- Threats on food security due to excessive exports of resources
- Budget allocations not met due to reprioritizing of sectors
- Last budget for survey at the year 1997
- Emphasis on capturing and post-harvest in budget allocations but lack of attention on managing
- Fisheries managing were not core attention by fund managers/legislatives
- Subsidies and budget were focused on poverty eradication but not addressing the core problem. Easy way out by political masters treating the “disease” not the “symptoms”

(Tim – Cited YEMEN where there is policy in place to control amount of exports)

THAILAND

- Data from survey and statistics from landing sites used
- Some coherence in policy by sustaining the catch
- No policy in controlling exports and domestic consumption
- Policies should pay attention on conservation of resources
- Policies within institutions to be tied it with policies of the state
- The lack of consideration on damages/loses to ecosystem when targets/policies were drawn out

INDONESIA

- Some policy on markets but not directly managing it.
- To encourage more exports of not just raw products but added value products
- Encourages investments to these industries of adding values to the products
- Job creation through adding value industries

(Dr Magnus - Policy in international level like the ASEAN community e.g. Combating illegal fishing. Some internationally agreed policy without intention to implement. Conflicts in national policy and internationally/regional policies due to constraints of budget or political will.)

MYANMAR

- There isn't much change of policy since 1995. Although resources change, policy remains the same

Tim - Policy should stay long term at least 10 years with proper reviews

Constraints in Policies

MALAYSIA

- Informed decisions on making policies by the political masters using data and information
- MTEN - government think-tank to feed information and suggestions to the political masters for policy deciding
- 2nd phase for GTP (government transformation plan) where fisheries main vehicle - using data and current information

Dr Rudolf: Is there use of scientific data to write policies

- The use of science is only to certain extend
- There is also inadequate information in certain areas
- Policies are scientific driven but based on availability of information only
- A culture of scientific driven in drafting policies eg by grants/funding for research
- Akademi Sains - exclusive scientific committee to advice the government on issues
- Scientific information were used only if they are inclined with interest of the political elites. Ignoring facts of science when they are not aligned
- Short sightedness of political elites. Political influences/interest groups overpower science

THAILAND

- Long term (20 years plan) and midterm (5 years plan) Feeding of scientific information and important issues before drafting of the policies at national level. Departmental policies will refer to the national policies so that allocations/funding are gotten.
- There is use of scientific data in policies drafting.
- There is lack of scientific data to feed in for drafting of policies in national level
- Inadequate information in certain areas
- Databases were built to collect information
- Political issues
- Ministers and MPs do have advisors (science)

INDONESIA

- Yes. Science information is used in drafting. Consultation were done to with stakeholders based on the scientific information

MYANMAR

- Yes, some science in use for drafting of policies

Dr Magnus: capacity limitations in gathering information and scientific data. Connecting the science and social sciences discipline. There is lobbying in policy-making that may go against science.

How are policies effectively translated into strategies?

MALAYSIA

- They are declines for certain species but for certain fisheries like pelagic only exhibit fluctuations. Too general to mention of declines for all fisheries
- Strategies look at the utilization/production stages (capture, post harvest) not management side. Bias to production more than conservation
- Recently plan of actions drawn out for target species
- Issues on good-governance/bureaucracy/ lack of capacity hinders translation to strategies
- Synergy in Malaysia were better (eg in Natural Resource and environment ministry) as government moving towards blue ocean strategy

SEAFDEC

- There is no movement of plan of action and resolution adopted by each country adopted by at the highest political level of each country since SEAFDEC existence for 11 years
- Capacity- budget and people
- Not understanding of the priorities
- Resolutions were done by consultation to stakeholders
- PM of Thai chaired a national research council where fisheries were considered as a very small issue in the whole broad scientific issues

Dr Magnus: lack of capacity due to segmentations of different department, science communities and other stakeholders in dealing with fisheries problem . No synergies in understanding the issues to get support/funding in handling the issues. Policies were not well communicated (disconnects, discrepancy)

Mr Ab Rahim: Limited opportunities a in communicating to the policy makers

Dr Wantana: Stakeholder pressures often open opportunity to communicate with the policy makers

Tan Geik Hong: Recent directive from the government to communicate policies and get feedback from stakeholders.

Cheryl: Malaysia has Maritime Council chaired by the minister. Matters can be brought directly to the Minister

Dr Azhari: Using/sharing of information through databases among countries that allow a common position on issues

CONCLUSION

- There are proper policies but not well implemented
- Transformation of policies when government changes/management changes often creates problem in terms of having long term policies
- Misconnections in the hierarchy of policy makers → implementers → managers → stakeholders
- Capacity limitation in driving the policies to strategies
- Lack of integrations in the social sciences vs pure sciences. Use of science is not taken granted but not always used.
- Pressures from stakeholders are sometimes useful to bring the issues up to the policy makers