



Recap of Day 1

Introductory session

- ✍ Fishing communities are main stakeholders of the coastal areas, historic and traditional owners of the resource
- ✍ Area restrictions have reduced fishing grounds and catch, added to the woes of the fishers
- ✍ Community-based decisions are required for fisheries resource management, including fishing gear restrictions
- ✍ State fisheries departments to be part of the process of designating and managing MPAs
- ✍ Systems for co-management of protected areas need to be put in place
- ✍ Need for a balanced seascape approach, not just restricted to MPAs
- ✍ Role of women to be kept in mind, while looking at the social dimensions of MPAs

Presentations

- ✍ Gulf of Mannar National Park and Biosphere Reserve
- ✍ Fishing community issues in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR)
- ✍ Social dimensions of sea turtle protection in Orissa- Case study of Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary and the nesting beaches of Rushikulya and Debi
- ✍ Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park and Sanctuary
- ✍ Malvan (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary
- ✍ Society and Ecology: Building Bridges between People and Conservation, Agatti Conservation Reserve: A Case Study (Lakshadweep)
- ✍ Communities and MPAs in Andaman, and Nicobar Islands

Key issues




- ✍ No clear estimates on people affected
- ✍ Reduced number of fishing days, restriction on access to and reduction of fishing grounds, affects fishers (women and men)
- ✍ Rights of communities not settled in PAs
- ✍ No demarcation of boundaries, provisions of innocent passage not implemented, problems in compliance and enforcement
- ✍ No clear guidelines to implement provision to protect the occupational interests
- ✍ Small-scale fishers worst affected, vessel confiscation and arrests, arbitrary fines and confiscations of catch and gear
- ✍ Communities not involved in the development and implementation of management plans, existing plans inaccessible

Key Issues

- ✍ Community conservation initiatives, traditional knowledge and community institutions not considered
- ✍ Inadequate co-ordination between different agencies, fisheries departments expertise/ role on fisheries issues not taken on board
- ✍ Fishing regulations in the MFRAAs not strictly enforced (Gahirmatha, Malvan, and Gulf of Mannar)
- ✍ Fishers not compensated for effect of PA on lives
- ✍ No long-term sustainable alternative livelihood options provided to fishers
- ✍ Fishing communities are victimized due to unchecked industrialization (Gujarat, Orissa and Tamil Nadu)
- ✍ Are MPAs an effective tool for conservation? Are they meeting their objectives?

Key Issues

Island presentations

-  Lakhadweep: Communities actively involved in conservation initiatives, including in designing and developing management plans
-  Local existing institutions are involved in conservation initiatives
-  Traditional indigenous practices for conservation exists as seen in the case of Nicobar Islands

Proposals

Fishing community

- ✍ Fishing communities to be actively involved in all phases of PA management
- ✍ Access and use rights of fishing communities to resources and fishing grounds to be recognized
- ✍ Important to involve trawler owners/workers in conservation initiatives

WLPA

- ✍ Existing rights of fishing communities to be settled
- ✍ Need for humanitarian outlook on enforcement, involving communities
- ✍ Operationalize provisions such as occupational interests, and innocent passage
- ✍ Explore options to designate conservation or community reserves
- ✍ Consider creating a special category for marine and coastal protected areas, with due recognition of livelihoods

Proposals

Fisheries management

- ✍ Implement provisions of marine fishing regulation acts (MFRAs)
- ✍ Stringent measures for fisheries management to be put in place

Institutional coordination

- ✍ Better co-ordination between enforcement agencies, and between enforcement agencies and communities

Proposals

Research and monitoring

- ✍ Studies to identify effectiveness of protection measures, propose further effective and practical measures
- ✍ Fishing communities to participate in research and monitoring activities (adequate compensation)

Livelihoods

- ✍ Collect gender-segregated socio-economic data
- ✍ Provide basic facilities to fishing communities (education, health etc.,)
- ✍ Develop sustainable income generation, alternative livelihoods with a gender focus, designed in consultation with communities
- ✍ Alternative livelihood strategies to be fishery related, with marketing linkages
- ✍ Better access to formal credit facilities

Proposals

Other development activities

- ✍ Other non-fishery related threats to the habitat and species to be addressed and activities regulated
- ✍ Need to have a broader conservation and development framework

Need for an overall management of marine resources and marine ecosystems