



MPAs as a tool for food security

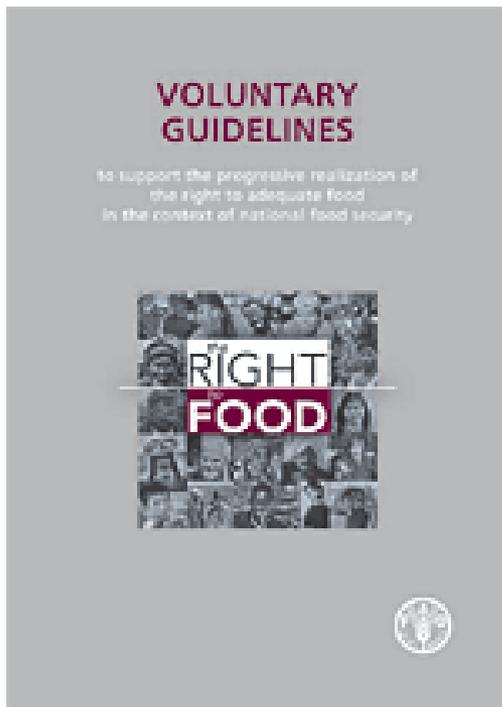
A brief introduction

S.M Garcia

Chair IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group (FEG)



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The Right to Food

The **Right To Food** is the right to have regular, permanent and unrestricted **access**, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively **adequate and sufficient food** corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensure a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and **dignified life** free of fear ([UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier De Schutter](#))

- It is enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human rights. It is not a right to a minimum ration or a right to be fed but a **right to a decent life**.
- **States are obliged to act if individuals are deprived of access to food for reasons beyond their control**
- **Famine and mass starvation usually arise from problems related to government policies and problems** related to access (and entitlements), production systems, distribution networks, labour and wages, trade and markets, etc. (A. Sen, 1981; 1998)

Food security: Evolving concept

*Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic **access** to **sufficient, safe** and **nutritious** food that meets their dietary needs and food **preferences** for an **active and healthy life**. (FAO WFS, 1996)*

- Food security definitions have shifted focus :
 - *1970s: increasing global supply (1974 WFS);*
 - *Early 1980s: facilitating access to food; demand supply at nested scales (household, regions) (1983 FAO);*
 - *Late 1980s: attention to dynamics of food insecurity (1986 World Bank) distinguishing chronic FS (structural origin) from transitory FS (contextual origin). Different solutions required. Attention also to food quality and peoples' preferences;*
 - *Late 1990s: Recognition of the multidimensional nature of FS: access, availability, utilization and stability (WFS, 1996).*
- The origin of the problem shifted from **crop failure** (Hunger as “natural” outcome) to **governance failure** (hunger as a social and political construct) .

Hidden environmental virtues of fisheries?

The edible **Energy Return On Investment (EROI)** ratio of capture fisheries is much higher than that of any terrestrial livestock production



grain-fed beef

0,019



Role of SSFs in food security

- **SSFs sustain 90 %** of the 120 million people dependent on fisheries, **97 %** of which live in tropical developing countries
- **Inland fisheries** : 50% (60 million) of fishery jobs of developing countries.
- **SSFs provide millions of livelihoods** (15 times more than LSFs), food, a vital social safety net maintaining the social fabric of coastal communities.
- **SSFs provide over 50% of global human food fish.** In developing countries, **90-95%** of their landings are for local human consumption.
- **Subsistence fisheries** : a vital, largely un-quantified and underestimated activity in rural, poor, dependent communities
- **Recreational fisheries** contribute some **\$190 billion** to the global economy and provide recreation and food for some **220 million** anglers.
- SSFs produce 3 to 7 times more fish/tonne of fuel and 7 to 300 times more employment per million USD invested*

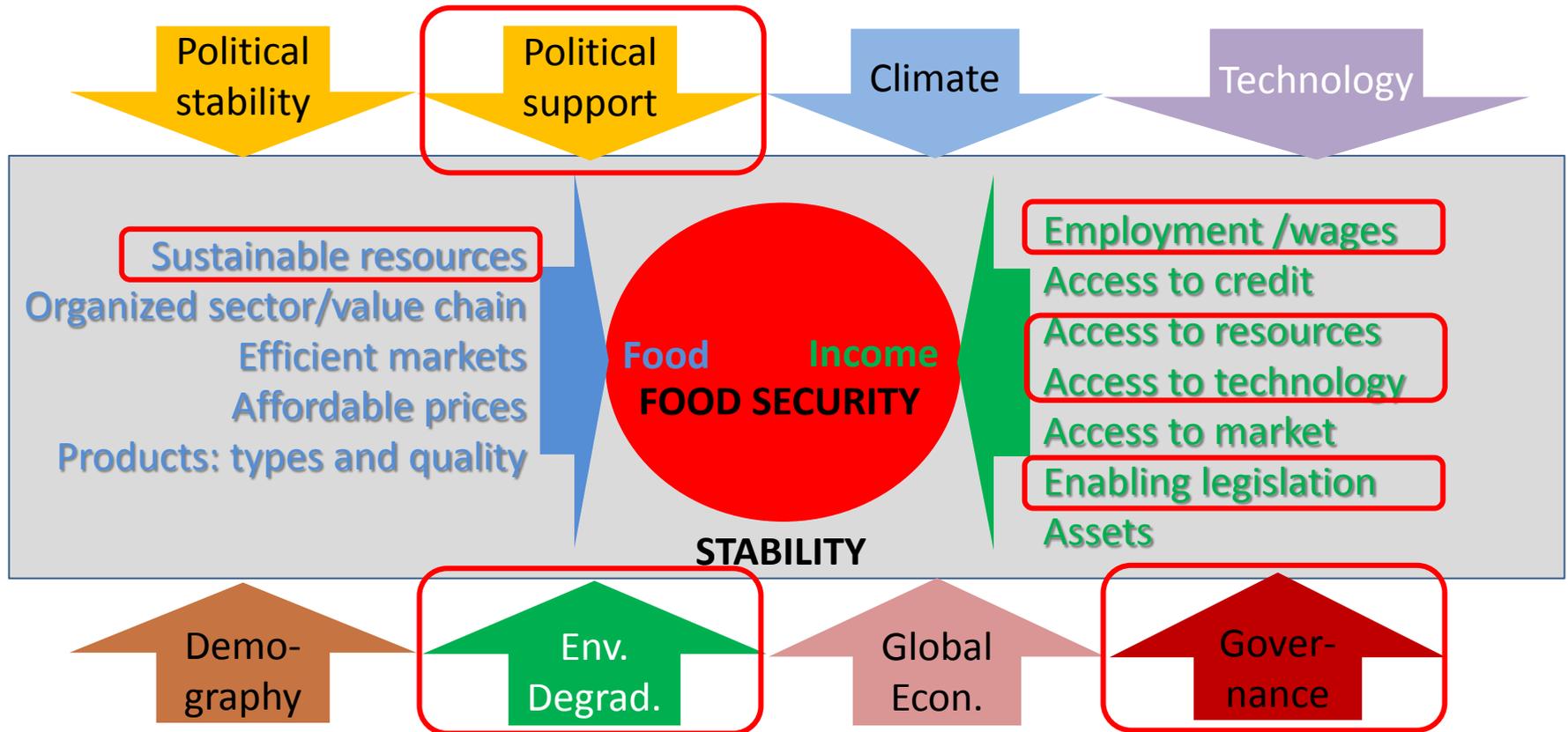
Because of the safety net they provide, SSFs play an important role in FS and poverty prevention in inland water and coastal areas.

The parameters of Food Security

- **Availability** of **sufficient quantities** of quality food, supplied through domestic production or imports (inc. food aid).
- **Access** by individuals to adequate resources (i.e. **entitlements**) for acquiring appropriate foods.
- **Utilization** of food through adequate diet but also clean water, sanitation and health care (**non-food inputs**) to reach a state of **nutritional well-being** where all physiological needs are met.
- **Stability**: **Crosses the 3 other parameters**. The conditions above should be met **at all times** with particular attention to political, economic or climatic crises; seasonal oscillations or fundamental changes in policies and climate.

Entitlements are the set of all commodity bundles over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of their community (incl. traditional rights).

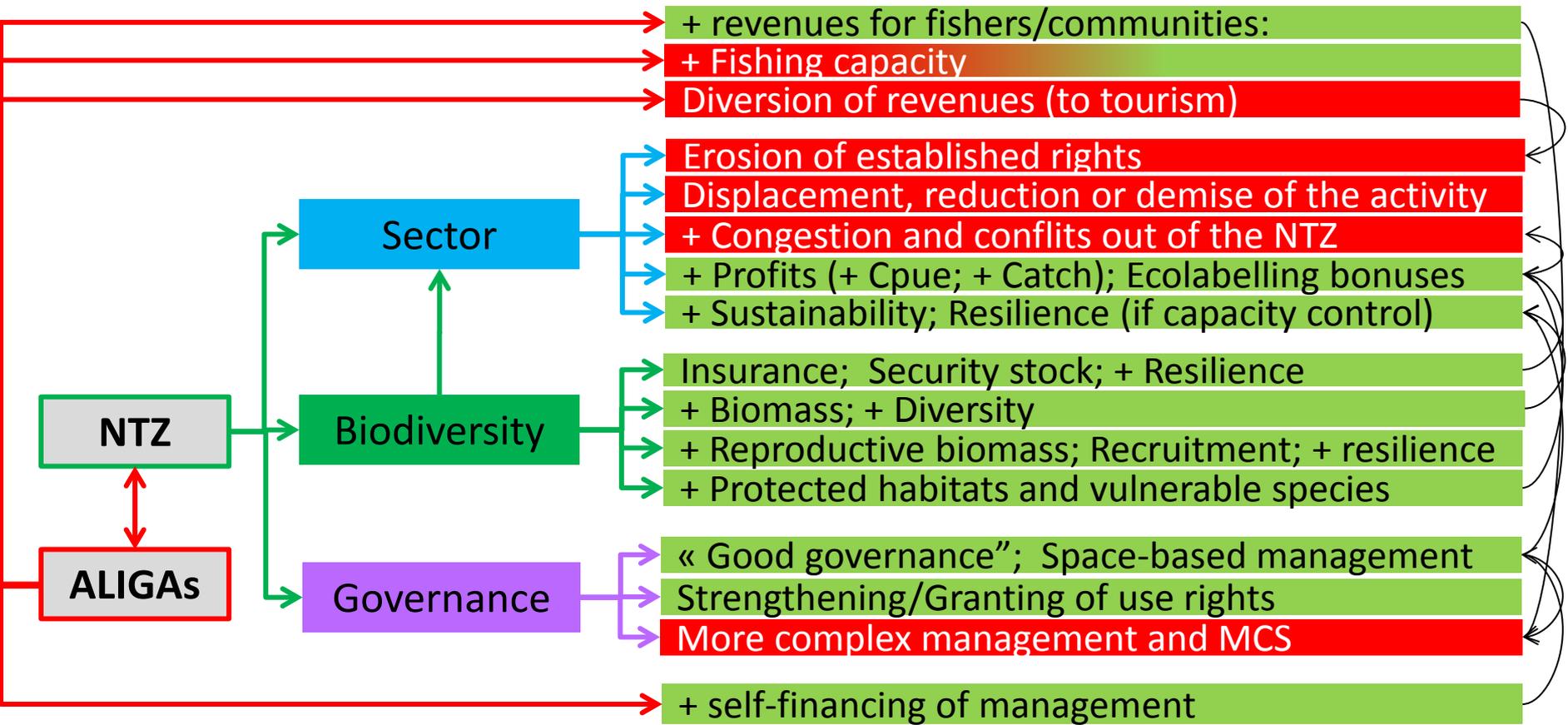
The FS equation and MPAs



The equation stands at global, regional, national, local, and individual scales

MPAs influence many aspects of it

MPAs role on SSFs and Food Security

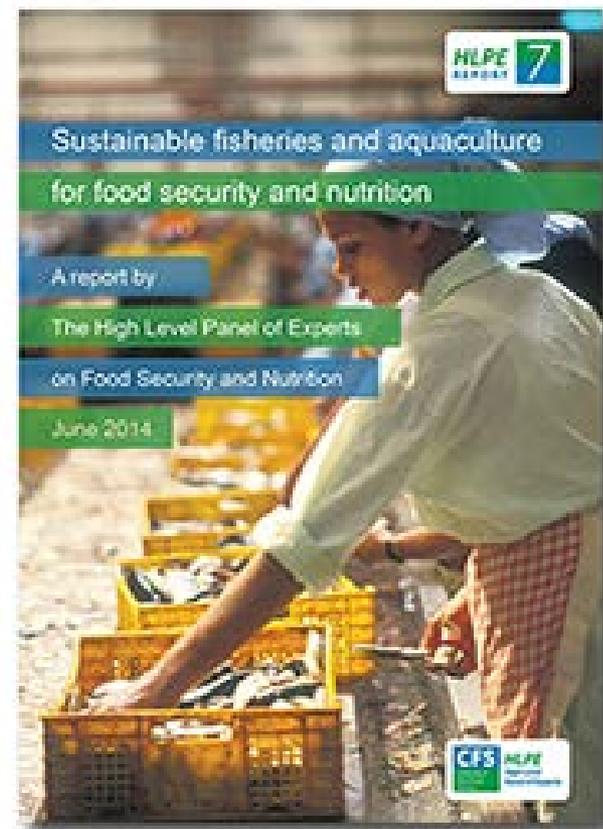


MPA Benefits	Depend on fish behavior and level of fishing effort
MPA costs	Depend on fisher's level of dependency

The effect of MPAs on Food security and on livelihoods are the two sides of the same coin.

HLPE statement on MPAs and FS

- Broad evidence of a strong causal positive link between MPAs and local food security is still lacking.
- MPAs are neither uniformly good nor uniformly bad for coastal communities
- Further research is needed to (i) better document impacts and (ii) better factor in the tenure rights of local communities.



HLPE, 2014. . Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2014. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3844e.pdf>

Enabling national policies that...

- **Establish the RTF in law** and ensure compliance in business and CSOs' initiatives
- **Protect property and use rights**, particular of minorities and vulnerable groups
- **Prevent discrimination** in access to means of production and distribution
- **Mainstream “good governance”** across governments offices
- **Harmonize policies** on food security and poverty reduction with conservation ones
- **Integrate** development, conservation and management
- **Foster sustainable use**, explicitly dealing with trade-offs
- **Avoid/Mitigate coastal degradations**
- **Address the root causes of food insecurity**: productivity; demography, poverty, entitlements; alternative opportunities; education and social disruptions
- **Systematically identify vulnerable ecosystems** (species, habitats) and human communities
- **Support SSFs**, particularly when confronted with mega-development projects
- **Ensure equitable distribution of food** supplies in relation to need.
- **Promote additional income opportunities** (ALIGAs and ICDPs)
- **Address cross-cutting implementation issues**: governance, reform, credit, legislation, decentralisation, participation, peace and security, global trade and macroeconomic policy reforms, integrating frameworks (e.g. ESD)

“Top 10” Lessons: People & MPAs

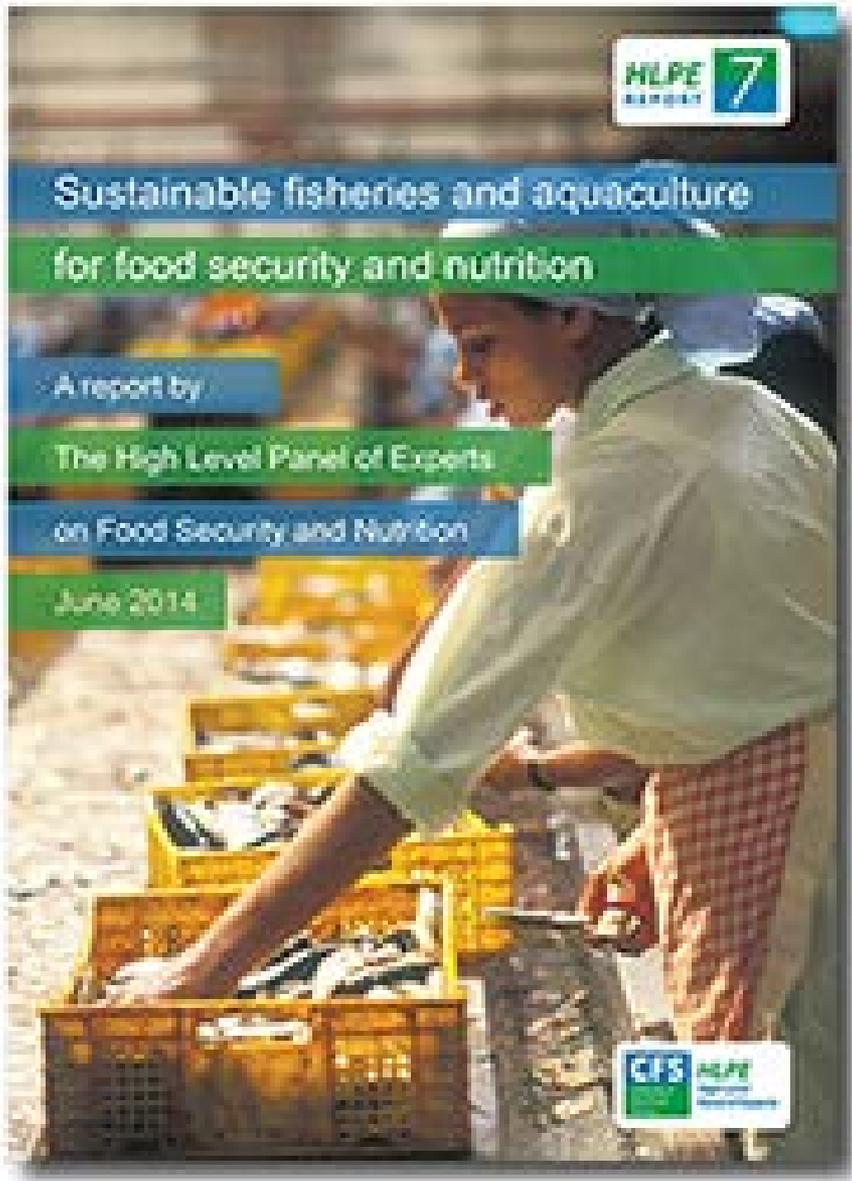
- Find suitable ‘Entry Points’
- Effective governance is critical (Good governance principles)
- Get the rights right
- Make participation meaningful
- Costs matter as much as benefits
- Support local communities
- Deal with displacement
- Shift underlying attitudes
- See MPAs in the bigger picture
- Knowledge has a ‘people side’



Questions for the debate

How can MPAs have more positive outcomes for both conservation, livelihoods and food security?

- 1.** What are the trade-offs between conservation and resource utilization that need to be addressed in MPAs in order to ensure food security outcomes?
- 2.** How should the trade-offs be addressed? How to assess their implication (costs, benefits, distribution); How to determine and legitimize equitable solutions?
- 3.** Who are the different stakeholders who should be involved in MPAs planning and management and how can their participation be made effective?



Thank you for
your attention

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3844e.pdf>

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