



IUCN  
WORLD PARKS  
CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 2014

## **Workshop 3.3 : “Effective and equitable governance of the seascape”**

17<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2014; 8.30 - 12:15 m

Towards Participatory Design and Shared Governance:  
The Case of the Koh Rong Archipelago Marine Fisheries Management Area

Dr. Jesse Hastings, National University of Singapore

# The issue



- Cambodia is establishing its first Marine Fisheries Management Area (multiple-use MPA) surrounding the Koh Rong Archipelago
- Process is embracing principles of participatory design and shared governance
- Lessons for building stakeholder engagement in other countries where government governance has been the norm

# The key question(s)



Community consultation on zoning. Credit: FFI/FiA

Key stakeholders include three Community Fisheries (CFi), private sector (including local tour operators and MNCs), multiple governmental ministries on various levels, and supporting NGOs

**Three mechanisms** for strengthening community governance and building broad stakeholder engagement across levels in MPA design and management

1. Zoning Consultation Process
2. CFi Support and Networking
3. Technical Working Group (TWG)

*III: How to strengthen community governance to be able to cope with different challenges and pressures, without depriving local communities/stakeholders of their decision-making power? What role for the central authorities, NGOs, and others?*

*IV: “Local” stakeholders and “sector” stakeholders, how to address differing needs and engagement at different scales? How to engage decision and policy makers and other actors including the private sector?*

# The Process

## 1. Zoning Consultation Process (2012 - 2014)

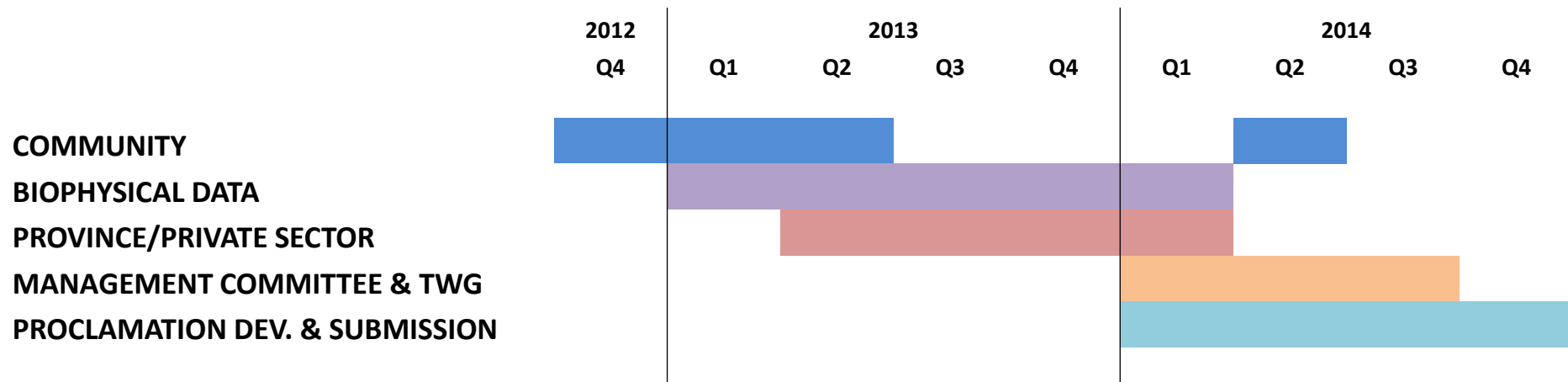
- Biophysical and social data informed community meetings and focus groups, as well as meetings with dive operators and private companies (III, IV)

## 2. Community Fisheries (CFi) support (2012 – Present)

- Combination of targeted training, committee elections, network-building and operational assistance to increased the capacity of CFi institutions (III)

## 3. Technical Working Group (2014)

- Inclusion of representatives from across sectors so to add technical capacity, increase local awareness, enhance MPA management effectiveness, and create a model for shared governance for future Cambodian MPAs (IV)



Consultation overview. Credit: FFI



# Lessons learnt

- Multiple challenges throughout the process...
  - Working within historical context of top-down planning, balancing different perspectives on what is ‘shared governance’
  - Creating bonds of trust between dissimilar stakeholders
  - Defining breadth and roles of stakeholders involved
  - Selecting representatives which reflect group priorities
- Despite challenges, effort paying off...
  - Reduced stakeholder uncertainty about MPA objectives
  - Clear evidence of community and private sector “stamp” on MPA design
  - Established Technical Working Group for MPA implementation
  - Official proclamation of MPA expected by end of 2014



*Fishers on Koh Rong. Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI*



# Key recommendations

1. When breaking ground in stakeholder engagement, expect a long and potentially challenging process
2. Prioritize early consultation with and capacity building of communities → builds ground-level support, reduces uncertainty, improves zoning decisions and engagement for future MPA implementation
3. Strengthen linkages between local fishing organisations and sub-national government
4. Don't forget the private sector! A key partner in both MPA design and effective management
5. Draw on contributions from qualified NGOs and interested researchers to grow cache of technical data