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

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

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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)

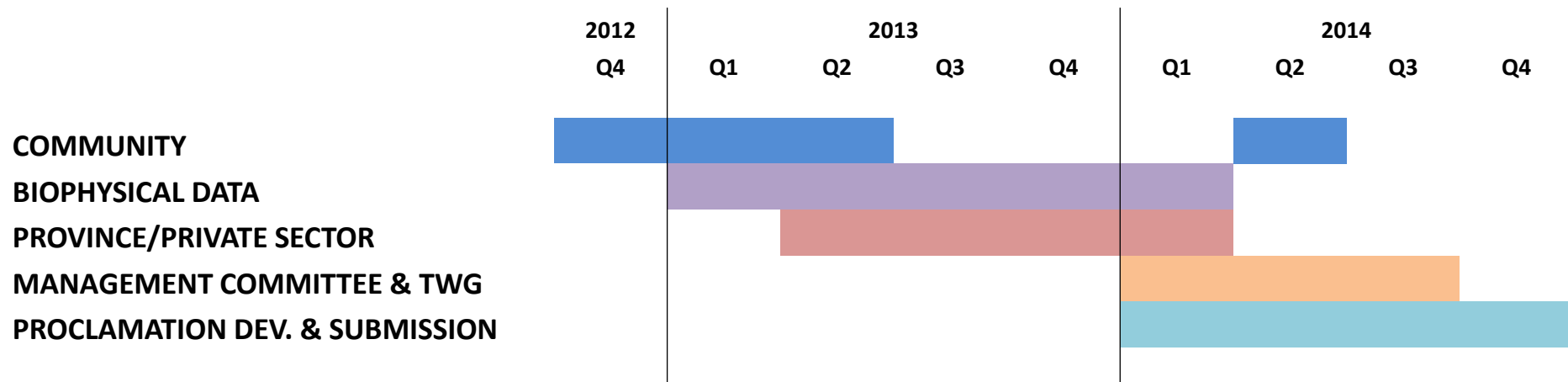
- Biophysical and social data informed community meetings and focus groups, as well as meetings with dive operators and private companies (III, IV)

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