

# Strengthening Small Scale Coastal Fisheries

This section provides summary guidelines on the approaches, processes and tools which can be used to guide rebuilding undertaken by professionals in government and non-government organisations to ensure a thorough understanding of the natural, social, institutional and operational context.

The steps taken should be informed to each other, and be carefully cross referenced and compared to inform decision making at all levels. The benefits of this approach will be to:

- Generate good relations with the community
- Allow participants to contribute their ideas openly and freely
- Result in well-informed and comprehensive picture of the current situation,
- Articulate individual, household and community aspirations for future destinations and identify resources available for making that journey
- Build confidence and mutual respect among all stakeholders
- Create a sense of ownership, motivation and reward in seeing ideas and actions come to fruition

## General Process Guidelines

Many of the processes and tools covered in this section can be used at various stages of analysis, design and implementation. The suggestions made here should be adapted to suit the time, place, people and objectives of each situation.

## Guidelines for situational analysis & risk assessment

The following are some of the tried and tested tools of participatory assessment, these should be adjusted and new approaches invented based on local knowledge and preferences.

### Review of existing information – what do we know already?

Existing written material can provide a rich overview of relevant issues. Media, reports and information gathered by others should be reviewed keeping in mind that often these materials will have been written for a different purpose at a different time.

### Observation – watch and learn

Simply watching people, noting what they do and how they act in a variety of situations can be very instructive. For example, if you observe the dynamics at a gathering you will get clues as to who is a natural or appointed leader in the community and clues will be evident as to who is excluded either by their total absence or silence during discussions.

### Semi - structured interviews – talking with a purpose

People like to talk, having a conversation is the most natural thing in the world. Careful planning and some flexibility can go a long way to guiding natural conversations to ensure you cover issues of interest. Listening carefully and following up on the issues which are of most concern will result in an

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awareness of people's concerns, problems and priorities for the future. Unexpected or new topics which arise can offer a fruitful direction of enquiry to pursue. Such interviews can be carried out with individuals, in small groups, with specific people who are felt to be key players because of their specialist knowledge or roles. Interviewers should stop at the end of each interview and note their findings and share these with others at the end of each day to promote learning and to revise the structure of future interviews.

## Diagrams and visual tools – can you picture this?

Diagrams and symbolic representation can usefully represent the current situation and risks faced at many levels. The products may be interesting but it is often the conversations that people have during these processes that provide the richest materials for learning. Comparing and talking about the differences between diagrams produced by different groups of people can also be instructive. For example by asking women and men, or young and old people, or able bodied and people with disabilities to work separately a rich and diverse picture will emerge.

## Mapping – it looks like this

Collectively producing a map of an area can identify specific hazards and features which vulnerable people can use to mobilise in times of need to minimise the risks to life and property. In the case of the fishing industry, it can be used to identify fishing grounds and their characteristics, which inform the type of resources (e.g. boats / nets) required. Many materials can be used to create maps, from sticks and stones to computer based software. If you need to keep a record then the process should be paper based or be transcribed onto paper.

## Transects – a slice of life

By taking a walk through a neighbourhood, or potential settlement area, a group of people can record what they see, talk to people along the way and make notes, look at natural features and identify hazards. Taking pictures and later discussing what was taken and why it is considered important can generate useful debate.

## Modelling – bringing ideas to life

Ideas can be brought to life through modelling. For example, existing boats, or remnants of damaged boats can be used to create scale drawings and models of the type of craft required.

## Seasonal calendars – what a difference a year makes

People's daily reality and livelihood options can change significantly with the seasons. Seasonality has a strong impact on the livelihoods of fishing communities, and particularly so for those engaged in coastal fisheries. During some months of the year, the weather and rough seas prohibit fishing in the open sea, forcing the communities to find alternative means of getting through these periods. Plotting out a seasonal calendar with older and younger people, women and men will help to understand the seasonally dependent hazards and opportunities.



## Social and institutional network analysis – who knows who

All communities rely on social networks and institutions to govern, organise, and access resources and services. Careful mapping of organisations, for example by placing cut out circles of varying sizes and colours in relation to each other, can highlight which formal and informal organisations relate most to, or are disconnected from, communities. It is possible to identify who has responsibility for and controls what. Pivotal relationships and gatekeepers

can be identified and implications for any interventions explored.

## Livelihoods & class analysis – what kind of living does you make?

Diagrams and discussions can help to understand individuals' and households' sources of livelihoods, behaviour, decision-making and coping strategies. Interventions can be focused to strengthen and /or diversify the existing livelihood options and mitigate apparent risks.



## Gendered resource mapping – what's the difference?

By exploring resource availability and use by women and men an appreciation of who controls what and how each benefits a profile can be established.

## Problem tree – getting to the root of it

This process aims to create an understanding of prominent problems impacting on individuals and communities. Collective discussion aims to dig deeper in order to understand the root causes and then develop strategies to address these rather than simply tackling symptoms. The branches of the tree reach for the light to nourish future growth.

## Ranking and scoring – putting things in place

Hazards, needs or planned actions, services, or any aspect of development can be placed in a matrix and people can be asked to rank each according to the other. By asking people to share out finite numbers of counters (beans, stones or any other local object available in quantity) can be used to create a quantitative ranking. It remains true that the discussion and qualitative debate is more interesting than any absolute numbers coming out of the exercise.

## Process Guidelines for Rebuilding Fishing Vessels

Practical Action has adopted a participatory approach to repairing and building boats damaged and lost as a result of the war. This participatory approach to fishing vessels building can be used in any context.

### Benefits of using this methodology

- Community participating in decision making and implementing
- Transparency
- Less room for political and bureaucratic interferences
- Building community capacity
- Building community sense of ownership
- Appropriateness of the rebuilding interventions

### 1. Obtain the Beneficiary List from DFO (approved)

The process of selecting the beneficiaries who are to receive new fishing vessels must include obtaining the list of those who have lost vessels from the District Fisheries Office and cross checking this list with the relevant Fisheries Inspector (FI).

### 2. Verify the beneficiary List with the Community

It will be cross checked with the community in an open community meeting for clarification and transparency among the community. When community additions are incorporated, it should be submitted to the DFO again for approval. A consensus on the proposed beneficiaries must



finally be reached with the participation of the community and the Fisheries Inspector concerned. When finalised, at a community meeting, publicise the beneficiary list.

### 3. Sensitise the Community on the community based fishing vessels building

Sensitisation involves explaining the communities' role in the building and designing the canoes, agreeing on the methodology, roles and responsibilities of community, FI and the implementing organisation.



### 4. Choose a yard and set-up the yard with community participation

The proposed yard should have a proper road access to enable transport of raw material and built vessels. There should be adequate and appropriate provision of infrastructure such as drainage, water and electricity etc. Further, the place should be chosen with the common concession of the community and be environmental friendly.

### 5. Select the trainees from within the community

In producing the fishing vessels, the fisher communities are trained on rebuilding and repairing fishing vessels. When selecting trainees, those who have some knowledge on or

previous exposure to fibre glass boat repairs will be considered. Training the community is more an on the job training for them, with the supervision of an expert.

## 6. . Identify the specifications of the fishermen on the canoe design



The type of fishing vessels used varies significantly from fishing landing site to landing site. These differences, even when apparently minor to an outside observer, are crucial to whether or not the vessel can be effectively used for the type of fishing done at a given location. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to consult the community about their needs, during the planning stage of any proposed intervention in this area.

A thorough analysis of fishing vessels specifications needs to be done with the consultation of the fisher community of a particular fishing landing site to identify the factors which affect the design of a canoe or a boat.

Fishermen's needs, likes and dislikes express the factors such as the local sea conditions, speed of wind, type of fishing methods and gears practiced, geographical location of the landing site and the type of vessels fishermen are accustomed to using.

## 7. Either draw the design or make a dummy of the proposed mould

Once the critical specifications have been identified and agreed on, the design of the canoe or a boat should be

either drawn diagrammatically or a dummy be constructed using any available boats or parts of damaged boats, and in consultation with the community.

With the amalgamation of the broken parts of canoes or boats, a dummy of a vessel can be made, if that is not possible, a drawing of the design needs to be done with the consultation and community participation.

As stated above, during the building of the mould all community participation is ensured. A process of checking if the community agrees with the design or the dummy is carried out. If it does, one can move on to the next stage of building the mould, if not, go back to No.6 again and go through the process again until community consensus is obtained.

## 8. Obtaining the approval of a Marine Engineer

At this stage, it is important to obtain approval for the proposed vessel design from the fisheries department. The diagrams or dummy constructed (dummy can not be submitted; only a drawing of it can be submitted) with the design specifications should be submitted to the Fisheries

Department Marine Engineer (who can be contacted through the District Fisheries Office), for this purpose, before proceeding with construction.

Once approval is granted, the boat building process can begin, with the construction of a mould based on joint-prepared design or dummy. **A technical brief detailing the construction process is available from Practical Action. (ITDG)**

## 9. Build the mould

Based on the dummy of a vessel or the prepared design, the mould of the fishing vessel will be constructed. Fisher community participation is important even for the construction of mould, which will in turn ensure that the mould is in keeping with their fishing vessel specifications.

In the process, fisher community will be trained on the building and repairing fishing vessels, which in turn will equip them with the skills to rebuild or repair fishing vessels in keeping with their fishing vessel specifications.



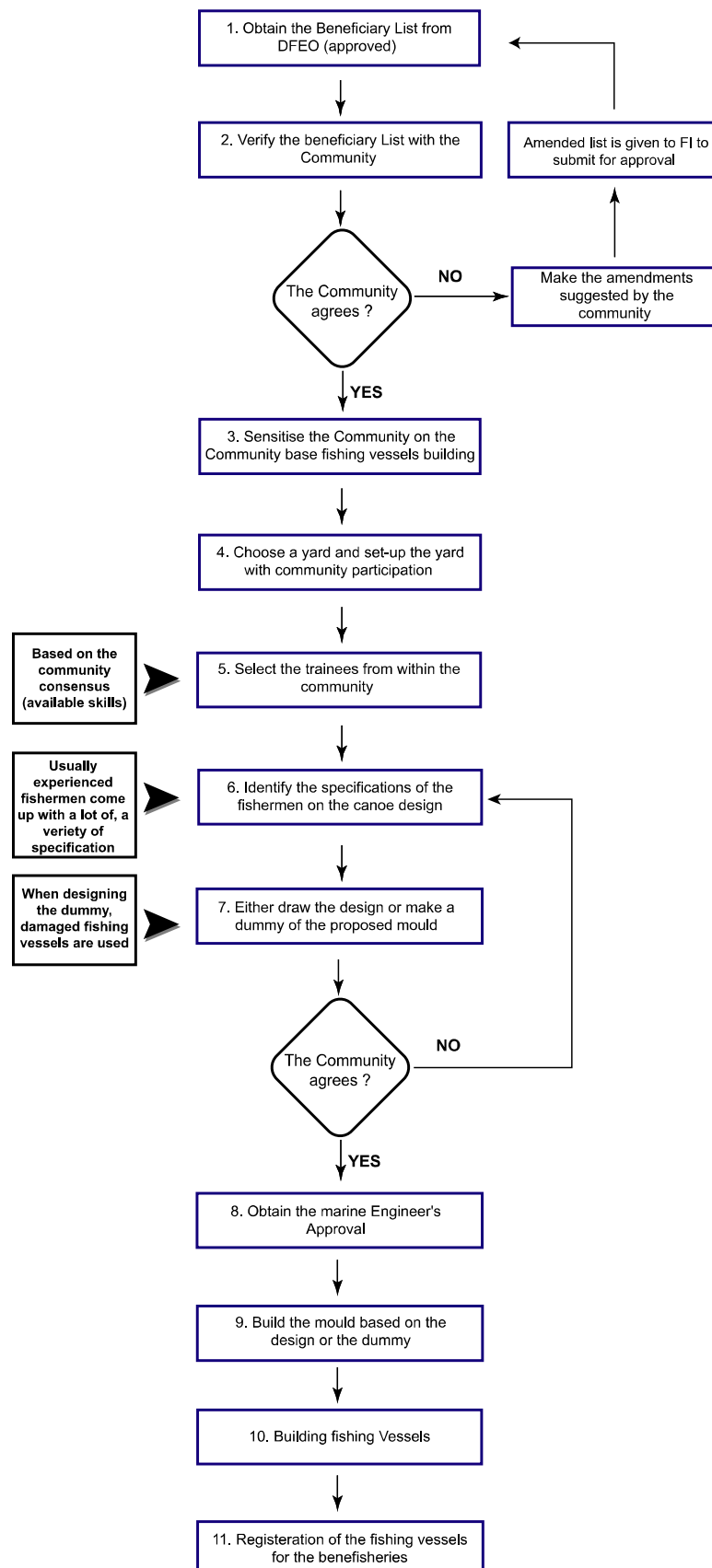
## 10. Building the fishing vessels

The identified trainees from the fisher community will be involved in assisting the trainers to build the boat using the mould. After the first two boats, gradually the building of the boats will be handed over to them, under the supervision of the trainers.

## 11. Registering the fishing vessels

Registration will be obtained for all the vessels produced, from the District Fisheries Extension Office (DFEO), prior to handing over to the beneficiaries

## Community Based Fishing Vessels Building



## Community participation



Community participation is an important part of the participatory approach to fishing vessels building.

The consultation process should ideally follow the guidelines recommended under 'General Process Guidelines', and should be designed to obtain the viewpoints representative of the whole community, rather than an individual opinion.

Through the consultations and observation of the existing boats and fishing gear used by the community, it should be possible to map the needs and preferences of the fishermen and women, taking into consideration factors including local sea conditions, fishing and landing sites, wind speeds and currents, fishing methods practiced and gear used.

Participation of the fisher community is advocated at every stage of construction, including the making of the mould, to ensure that their requirements are met.

Community participation will be encouraged not only to finalise the design of the fishing vessel but also in participation by the community in other ways, such as helping the trainer and trainees to continue working without long breaks, in terms of providing tea, food for the trainees and so on.

Training community members to build and repair their own fishing vessels will also equip them with the skills they need to maintain and develop their fleet of fishing vessels.