

EAFM for Leaders, Executives and Decision Makers (LEAD)



A5: Conversations

EAFM Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

PURPOSE

To prepare facilitators to be able to answer frequently asked questions.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

The facilitators should familiarize themselves with these questions and answers.

1. How does EAFM differ from other approaches

Q. How does EAFM differ from MSP, CRM, ICZM/ICM and conventional and/or existing fisheries management?

A. See A6: [Conversations] for answers to this question.

2. How EAFM addresses specific issues and hot topics

Q. How can EAFM help me with climate change?

A. The EAFM process can help you understand better how climate change is impacting your fisheries now and how it may potentially impact your fisheries and therefore your people, especially those who are directly dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods. EAFM brings together key stakeholders (who carry a range of knowledge and expertise) to examine ecosystem well-being (e.g. changes in habitats, changes in species health, composition, abundance and location), human well-being (e.g. increased costs of production, safety at sea risks, human migration, sustainable livelihoods), and governance (e.g. the need to adapt and work together with other stakeholders to develop more holistic fisheries management to address climate change impacts and potentially mitigate future impacts). The precautionary approach, which is one of the 7 key principles in EAFM, can help identify precautionary measures for adapting to changing climate, minimizing negative impacts, and taking advantage of new opportunities. By working together with other stakeholders, you can share and optimize

resources (e.g. financial, personnel, research efforts, equipment and facilities) toward addressing climate concerns.

Q. How does EAFM fit into my country's national climate change planning?

A. The EAFM process can help you identify potential and existing climate change impacts nation-wide, assess vulnerability and develop national climate change adaptation plans. For example, by working together with key stakeholders, it can help you understand migration patterns of the key economic species or shifts in locations of their spawning areas and develop a plan that incorporates such information. It can help your country establish plans to be better prepared for impacts of ocean acidification or mass coral bleaching that could impact habitats of the fisheries resources. In addition, the EAFM process can help you gather data and knowledge to better understand the sources of greenhouse gas emissions and identify natural carbon sinks (such as mangroves) that the fisheries can protect. EAFM encourages working with relevant industries and communities to develop plans and policies that supports climate change mitigation at the national level (e.g. low-carbon aquaculture production systems, reduction of fishing fleet overcapacity and fossil fuel consumption). When appropriate, EAFM supports your country to take part in national climate change planning processes, such as through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

Q. How would EAFM help fishing communities to be better off?

A. Human well-being is one of the most important EAFM goals. Many of the major issues that impact fishing communities come from activities outside of their control such as habitat degradation, overfishing and IUU fishing by large-scale fishing vessels. The EAFM planning process includes fishing communities and others involved in fisheries to address these issues together. It engages and helps empower the fishing communities so that they have a voice to identify their priority issues, and together plan and implement agreed upon actions to improve food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic benefits. This will further result in multiple objectives being simultaneously addressed and reduced conflict. The EAFM process also included socioeconomic monitoring to ensure that the human well-being objectives and the management actions towards them are being achieved through adaptive management.

Q. How would EAFM help us combat IUU?

A. The EAFM process helps you explore the different components of IUU and their linkages. It helps identify the main causes of IUU – such as overcapacity/overfishing and

weak monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), address the underlying causes of these issues, and develop management actions that improve sustainable development. Addressing the causes of overcapacity/overfishing in an EAFM will require stakeholder-involved processes. For instance, to reduce fishing effort while maintaining socioeconomic benefits requires participatory EAFM planning, co-management, awareness-raising and resource sharing, working together towards adaptive management. Strengthening MCS will also need strong participatory processes to ensure compliance and effective enforcement. Coordination and collaboration to address the underlying causes of IUU fishing, not just the symptoms, should result in better self-compliance, monitoring and surveillance, thereby making a more effective use of limited budgets (often wasted on large and expensive patrol vessels).

3. Scope of EAFM

Q. Is EAFM only about conserving ecosystems and biodiversity?

A. No, it is not only for conserving ecosystems and biodiversity. EAFM strives to balance both ecological wellbeing (including conserving ecosystems and biodiversity) with human well-being. It emphasizes the importance of the benefits that can be obtained through harvesting and processing fish, including increased food security, sustained livelihoods and employment, and increased national economy through trade. EAFM recognizes the reality that fisheries depend on healthy ecosystems, and that nature people are inter-dependent.

Q. How can EAFM fit into existing planning and governance frameworks?

A. EAFM can be used to evaluate, adapt, and enhance existing fisheries management plans as well as other types of natural resource management plans (e.g. coastal resource management) to make them more holistic and to encourage co-management. The EAFM planning process includes the following phases: Plan, Do and Check & Improve. These phases are best practices in any management efforts and focusing on fisheries issues means that EAFM will complement and add to other frameworks. The EAFM planning process will also help incorporate good practices such as those outlined in the key principles of EAFM (e.g. considering appropriate scale, cooperation and coordination, and balancing multiple objectives). Governance frameworks are necessary to successfully implement fisheries management and would result in greater outcomes.

4. Stakeholders & Engagement

Q. Are stakeholders from outside of the fisheries sector involved in EAFM planning?

A. Yes. EAFM is a holistic process which engages relevant stakeholders from different sectors. EAFM recognizes that fisheries activities can impact other sectors and vice versa. To effectively address many of the fisheries issues, it is essential that other sectors be involved. For example, habitat restoration often involves working with the forestry, coastal development, and tourism sectors. Aquatic pollution resulting from other sectors also often impacts negatively on fisheries and must be addressed by working with them,.

Cooperation and coordination across sectors assists in reducing conflict and results in a sharing of resources (decreasing costs) and knowledge.

Q. Which organizations should take the lead in the EAFM planning process?

A. Typically, it will be the national ministry or bureau or provincial level agencies or governing units responsible for fisheries in the country and the provinces. In a fishing management unit that covers high seas, the national government is in charge because of the UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)'s legal requirements which gave coastal nations the jurisdiction over the natural resources of an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that extends up to 200 miles off their shores. Within the EEZ each coastal State has jurisdiction to govern the use of its marine resources, and this is often specified in national legislation. In the high seas, regional organizations may assist the national governments in this effort. However, this does not mean that the leading authority in fisheries management has to lead every action that is developed in the EAFM plan that is jointly developed; this is where cooperation and coordination with other agencies and sharing of resources will strengthen fisheries management.

Q. Does EAFM help government and NGOs/CSOs work together?

A. Yes, NGOs/CSOs are important stakeholders and are an integral part of the EAFM process. In many fisheries management units, they also serve as important facilitators for the fishing and local communities to become successfully engaged in management planning and actions. Cooperation, coordination and co-management involving NGOs/CSOs helps harness important traditional knowledge, helps implement management actions, strengthens monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and reduces conflict.

Q. Should private sector businesses (not fishers themselves but the related businesses that support fishing) be involved in EAFM?

A. Private sector businesses, especially those engaged in the supply of fishing vessels and equipment, as well as those involved in post-harvest activities are critical to the success or otherwise of fishing and fishers. Through the participatory approach, their engagement in the EAFM process is essential. In conventional fisheries management their involvement is often ignored and many of the issues and their solutions are not included.

Q. How are stakeholders such as fishers, involved in the EAFM process?

A. As with all stakeholders, they are involved through a participatory process in all phases of the EAFM management cycle (Plan, Do & Check & Improve). In a fishery management unit, where fishers or fishing communities are socially or economically

disadvantaged and lack the needed organization that allows for their adequate representation, a third party, such as NGOs or CSOs may be needed to facilitate their involvement. Through this process they are able to voice concerns, contribute knowledge, gain awareness, help improve their situation by providing practical solutions, and assist in implementing management actions (including compliance and enforcement) and later monitoring, while reducing conflict.

Q. How can EAFM help improve the lives of disadvantaged groups including women, poorer households and minority communities?

A. Through the processes of stakeholder analysis and developing human well-being goals and objectives in an EAFM, these disadvantaged groups are given equal consideration, and in certain cases even higher priorities, as all other stakeholder groups. The EAFM process gives disadvantaged groups a voice in the discussion. If carried out effectively, the process should result in enriched human well-being that includes improvements in gender equality, livelihoods, economic benefits and health.

5. Timing & Resources

Q. Is it expensive to implement EAFM?

A. The level of human and financial assets required can be scaled according to the management objectives, management actions and implementation strategies. Through EAFM, budget requirements can often be shared among the stakeholders and other sectors impacted by and/or benefitting from the EAFM plan. Personnel and other resources can also be shared, resulting in reduced expenses for any one agency. Reprogramming of funds from existing efforts that are no longer necessary can also take place. Having effective EAFM plans can also generate increased government budget, support from others countries and international organizations, and result in increased political will.

Q. How long does it take to develop a good EAFM plan?

A. It depends on the scale and complexity of the issue, especially the time it takes to identify and familiarize them with the EAFM process, and engage all the relevant stakeholders through the planning process. With familiarity of the EAFM process, and once the stakeholders are identified and the issues are defined, it may take 6 months (or more) to complete the planning phase. It is important that adequate time is taken to fully engage the stakeholders throughout the process and it is essential to take the time, to ensure stakeholders' ownership. In cases where sufficient time is not allotted (e.g a mandatory deadline/legal requirement must be met), it is critical that the process be revisited with the appropriate stakeholders and adapted accordingly.

6. Impacts/Outcomes/Examples

Q. Are there examples of EAFM working successfully in Asia?

A. Many countries are already doing aspects of EAFM. Introduction of EAFM, as a holistic concept and alternative way to manage fisheries started in 2009 and several countries in the region, including the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, have adopted the concept for their national fisheries management. However, although the concept of EAFM is not new, as of 2016, EAFM implementation in the region is still in its infancy. The Samar Sea in the Philippines – see Reference materials B6) and the regional fisheries management areas (or WPPs) in Indonesia have drafted their EAFM plans. The management cycles, especially the “do: and “check and improve” phases of these plans are still to be completed and to allow for evaluation of their successes.

Q. How can the impact of EAFM be monitored and assessed?

A. The EAFM planning process requires that the stakeholders develop a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan. Indicators monitor the success of management actions and ways of collecting data or data sources are identified. The results of M&E will help the stakeholder to adapt their management as needed. This process of checking, improving and adapting is part of the continuous EAFM management cycle.

7. Application to other situations

Q. Can the EAFM be applied to freshwater fisheries areas and for aquaculture planning?

A. The EAFM planning process is independent of the type of fishery and method of production/harvest. The process for freshwater fisheries and aquaculture is the same as for marine species. The important requirement is that all relevant stakeholders must be engaged throughout the process.

Q. Can we modify EAFM to suit our local conditions?

A. The approach can be applied at any scale and should be modified to meet the needs of a given situation.

8. Information & Capacity Development Resources

Q. What organization(s) can deliver trainings on the EAFM Process?

A. This can be the government, a regional or international organization, or an NGO with responsibility for advising on fisheries management and/or capacity building or an organization that is willing to champion the holistic engagement required for successful EAFM.

Q. What EAFM training courses are available?

A. The Essential EAFM (E-EAFM) training course is the standard course that is being delivered in the region. This course is a complete package that includes comprehensive trainer and participant materials. The course materials are available in English, for free, at www.eafmlearn.org, which includes the most up-to-date materials. In addition to the E-EAFM training course, the EAFM for Leaders, Executives and Decision-makers (LEAD) toolkit, can also be found at this website. The LEAD tools are designed to be used in a high level consultation for leaders to help inform leaders and other high level entities about EAFM, creating understanding and willingness to support an EAFM.

Q. Are E-EAFM materials available in other languages?

A. Course materials have been and are currently being translated in different languages. The responsibility for translation is often with the national governments and are supported by regional or international fisheries organization, such as the Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) or the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. As of 2016, the E-EAFM course have been translated in Indonesian Bahasa and Thai.

Q. Where can we find trainers for EAFM?

A. E-EAFM trainers are those who have gone through the Essential EAFM training, have participated in a Training-of-the-Trainers (ToT) course, and/or developed the course itself. Most countries in the Southeast Asia and Bay of Bengal region have at least 1 person who has gone through an EAFM Training of Trainers (as of 2016) course. Larger organizations like SEAFDEC, and NOAA Fisheries (USA) have more trainers.

NOTE: The www.eafmlearn.org is planning to compile information on training resources.

Q. Where can we find funding to support EAFM?

A. EAFM, especially in the planning stage, can help you get more funding by

- a) providing a convincing project outline and concept to support funding requests from donors;

- b) having well-designed plans that will influence your national budget allocation and donor funding support;
- b) sharing finances and resources with other partners;
- c) providing support for reallocation of funds for more effective/efficient use

In cases where a Government is committing to EAFM as a way to manage coastal resources, domestic budgets may be available. This could include respective Department of Fisheries budgets but also source funds from other departments with an interest in coastal resources management, such as tourism. The EAFM framework of balancing ecological well-being with human well-being through good governance can also be an effective way to frame new development projects. For example, sustainable coastal resources could be a project goal with three outputs, (ecological well-being, human well-being and good governance) as project outputs or objectives. Designing a project around an EAFM framework should ensure that the project has a balanced approach and broad stakeholder participation and can be expected to attract significant donor funding as a result. EAFM has broad international donor interest and support. As a result, national and regional projects should be able to justify the reallocation of funding for EAFM training, piloting and roll out, from within existing donor funded projects as well as government funding.

Q. Where can I get more information on EAFM?

A. Please see www.eafmlearn.org.