



Workshop on coastal area planning and management in Asian tsunami-affected countries

27-29 September 2006, Bangkok, Thailand

Concept note

Background

Sound coastal area planning and management are key factors influencing the success and sustainability of rehabilitation and reconstruction in areas affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. In many places, unsustainable land management practices had degraded lands and vegetation prior to the tsunami and to “build back better”, improved land and resource management systems are required. The lessons drawn from rehabilitation efforts in countries whose coastal lands were severely affected by the tsunami may also be applied by other countries seeking to improve their coastal area planning and management.

The balance between the environmental, economic and social values derived from different land uses has often been sub-optimal due to underlying processes that consider short-term economic gains but fail to account for long term costs and benefits. Prevailing regulatory environments may also adversely affect investment in economically and environmentally sound activities while promoting conversion of land at the expense of poorer people and natural habitats. Furthermore, social structures may result in inequitable distribution of benefits that lead to management difficulties, privation and political tension.

However, win-win solutions are often possible, such as identification of the positive influences adjacent land uses may offer one another that can lead to realization of benefits for all parties and sectors involved. Greater spatial integration of land-uses and seasonal integration of activities associated with different livelihood strategies can similarly offer benefits in economic, environmental and social terms. Single objective, single output land management, however, frequently provides superior economic returns although sometimes at greater social and environmental cost.

Determining the optimum land use allocation is something that can only be achieved through analysis, consultation and a policy process that involves all relevant stakeholders. Such processes also facilitate rationalisation of policy and eradication of conflict and overlap. Key factors that influence outcomes at the local level are of interest across the Asian countries affected by the 2004 tsunami include:

- policy and legislative frameworks that support coastal area management;
- means of addressing conflict over land and resource tenure and use;
- institutional structures and mechanisms that enhance cross-sectoral coordination, community participation and intersectoral planning.

Analysis, review and comparison of these factors across countries will provide stakeholders in different sectors and coastal land use planners the opportunity to increase their awareness of issues that are often overlooked as a result of the sectoral nature of management interventions. For these purposes, FAO plans to hold a three day workshop on to bring together field practitioners, policy analysts, coastal planners and technical experts from relevant sectors to exchange information on issues of key importance to post-tsunami

rehabilitation with an emphasis on multi-sectoral interventions involving agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The workshop is supported by the Government of Finland, through the FAO “Forestry Programme for Early Rehabilitation in Asian Tsunami Affected Countries” and also by the agriculture and fisheries departments of FAO.

Objectives

1. to increase understanding of coastal area policies and coastal area planning, management and institutional issues in Asian tsunami-affected countries, with particular reference to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.
2. to share experience in coastal area planning and decision making, the factors that influence policy and plan implementation and approaches and mechanisms for intersectoral integration and coordination.
3. to identify actions to improve coastal area land use planning and management for rehabilitation and reconstruction in tsunami affected countries.

Organization of the workshop

The workshop will be centred on presentation of country papers¹, for each of the eight Asian tsunami affected countries, and three overview papers.

The country papers will cover the following:

- Main patterns and trends in coastal land cover and land and fisheries use, the main driving forces and resulting issues and conflicts;
- Post-tsunami land tenure, fisheries access and use issues and conflicts;
- Policies and regulations and plans governing coastal land/resource management and use: conflicts and gaps;
- Governance, decision-making processes and institutional structures for coastal land management and associated fisheries resource use.

The overview papers comprise:

1. Land tenure and use change in relation to poverty and the environment in Asian tsunami affected countries.
2. Integrated coastal zone planning in Asian tsunami affected countries.
3. Integrated land management to improve long-term benefits in coastal areas of Asian tsunami affected countries.

Discussion groups will be held to identify common issues among countries, share experiences and identify actions that could be taken at various levels to support improved coastal area management. The working groups will provisionally focus on the following issues and areas:

- Identification of common and divergent coastal area planning and management issues in the tsunami-affected areas;
- i) policy and institutional frameworks for coastal area planning in the eight countries, and ii) mechanisms to foster intersectoral interaction and coordination in planning;
- Recommendations for national and regional level actions to improve coastal area planning and sectoral integration, focusing in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

¹ Papers will be commissioned for each of the eight Asian tsunami affected countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Outputs

Outputs from the meeting will include:

1. workshop papers published on FAO web site and made available on CD;
2. a set of recommendations of actions that could be taken at national and regional level to promote improved coastal area planning and cross sectoral integration, particularly in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Partners and participants

The workshop will be organized as a collaborative effort of FAO's Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Departments supported by technical officers of the Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting will bring together planners and practitioners involved in coastal rehabilitation efforts at the local, national and regional levels and experts in forestry, fisheries agriculture and coastal planning. About 60 - 80 participants from local and national governments in the eight Asian-tsunami affected countries as well as from other Asian countries, and representatives of regional and international organizations and NGOs will be invited to attend.

Venue and timing

The workshop will be held in Bangkok from 27th to 29th September 2006.

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