

# How can MPAs have positive outcomes both for conservation and fisheries management in the context of small-scale fisheries?

Presentation at the Thematic session III – Integration of small-scale fisheries in marine protected areas (MPAs)

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## OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- \* MPAs and fisheries management
- \* The FAO Technical Guidelines
- \* IMPAC<sub>3</sub>
- \* International instruments:
  - \* The SSF Guidelines
  - \* The Tenure Guidelines

## MPAs and fisheries management

- \* MPAs – usually a tool for biodiversity conservation with increasing importance in global fora.
- \* Spatial-temporal-gear closures are historically some of the most common fisheries management measures.
- \* MPAs is one fisheries management tool among many others and is not always the preferred one.
- \* Fishing communities and small-scale fishers often bear the costs, while not necessarily receiving the benefits.

## Technical Guidelines on MPAs and fisheries (FAO, 2011)

- \* Need to know more about how MPAs work in the context of fisheries
- \* Response to COFI requests and UNGA recommendations
- \* Increasing recognition of the need to reconcile conservation and fisheries objectives (EAF)
- \* FAO expert workshop on MPAs and fisheries in 2006 → final document 2011
- \* FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries



## Purpose and contents

### PURPOSE

- \* Guidance on implementation of MPAs with multiple objectives, when one of the primary objectives is related to fisheries management
- \* Address the interface between fisheries management and biodiversity conservation
- \* Within the context of holistic management approaches: *focus on fisheries aspects*

### CONTENTS

- \* Discussion on definition of MPAs, and fisheries management and EAF
- \* Biological and ecological effects, and social and economic impact
- \* Institutional, legal and policy context of MPAs, and how to plan and implement MPAs

## Key messages

MPAs and MPA networks are a potentially powerful tool with both biodiversity conservation and fisheries management outcomes: To gain the most benefits, the two concepts need to be bridged

Process is key for successful results: Only meaningful public and stakeholder participation can ensure compliance, long-term sustainable support and equitable results

## IMPAC<sub>3</sub>

- \* IUCN & French Government
- \* Marseille 21-25 October & Ajaccio 26 October 2013
- \* 1700 participants – 91 workshops – 37 knowledge cafés
  
- \* FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department:  
2 workshops:
  - \* MPAs through the eyes of fishers
  - \* MPAs as a fisheries management tool

## MPAs as a fisheries management tool

- \* There needs to be a clear understanding of the importance of objectives: if designed for conservation purposes an MPA may not have benefits for fisheries.
- \* MPAs do not substitute for other fisheries management measures.
- \* To achieve effective participation, process is as important as the outcomes.
- \* Legal and institutional structures need to be established that guarantee customary rights and involvement of small-scale fishing communities.

## MPAs through the eyes of fishers

Fishers will only perceive MPAs as useful if they are equitable and provide benefits.

- \* *To the decision makers and authorities:* Ensure better transparency and honesty with regard to objectives and trade-offs.
- \* *To practitioners and the research community:* Ensure better collaboration and participation of communities, and provide a link between communities and governments/decision-makers.
- \* *To citizens and the public at large:* Recognize and respect that fishing and the marine space are the livelihoods of fishing communities

## International instruments, SSF and MPAs: *The SSF Guidelines*

*Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)*

- \* Currently being negotiated
- \* Developed through consultation process: 4000 stakeholders and mainly CSO led
- \* Human rights based approach considering all three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social and economic

***More on the SSF Guidelines in Session V on Friday!***

## International instruments, SSF and MPAs: *The Tenure Guidelines (VGGT)*

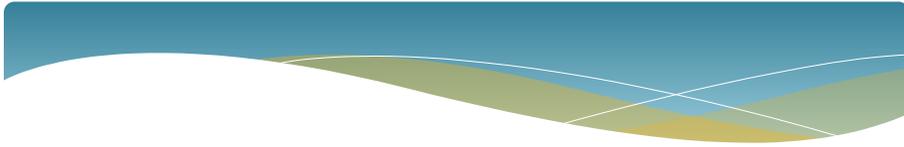
*Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (the VGGT)*

- \* Endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security in May 2012
- \* Promotes secure and equitable access to natural resources for food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods

***Preliminary version of a technical guide for the implementation of the VGGT in fisheries available for comments***

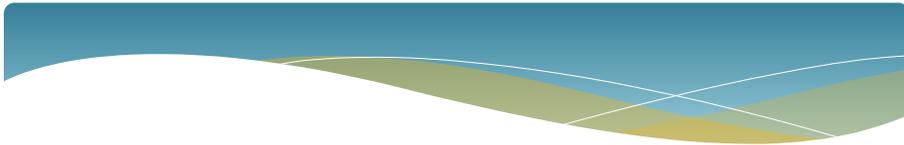
## MPAs and SSF

- \* As for other activities affecting their lives, true and proper participation of small-scale fishing communities in MPA design and management is required
  - \* Co-management and secure access
  - \* Combining fisheries management considerations with the need for social and economic development and respect for cultural values
  - \* A human rights based approach



- **MPAs have the potential to be a powerful tool to support sustainable environmental, social and economic development, but they should be used wisely and equitably.**
- **It has to be ensured that the benefits MPAs also flow to the small-scale fishing communities bearing their costs**

*Transparency, communication, cooperation and empowerment*



**THANK YOU!**