STREAM

Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management

STREAM Journal

Learning and communicating about the livelihoods of fishers and farmers

Published by the STREAM Initiative, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Suraswadi Building, Department of Fisheries Compound, Kasetsart University Campus, Ladyao, Jatujak, Bangkok, Thailand.

Example citation for a *STREAM Journal* article:

Santos, R 2002 Learning from Each Other about Conflict. *STREAM Journal 1*(1), 1-2.

Contents

Changes in Jabarrah 1
Satyendra D Tripathi, as told by Thanda Mahato

Palu Hijau in the Banggai Islands – Using Knowledge for Change 3
Akhdary Dj Supu, translated by Abigail Moore

Banggai Islands Case Study – Building Foundations for Action 5
Samliok Ndobe, translated by Abigail Moore

Three Stories from Nepal 7
Ghanshayam Poudel, Suraj, Ramesh Gautam, Pashupati Chaudhary, Anil Subedi, Muralidhar Mishara and Chet Nath Adhikari

Me and My Work 9
Sheryll Alcazar

Livelihoods Approaches – Skills Learned, Applied and Shared 11
Monica Piquero-Tan

About the *STREAM Journal* 13

About STREAM 14

Note

Previous numbers of the *STREAM Journal* have featured articles on significant change stories. These have included actual stories by people in communities or working in organizations, and also some articles about the significant change story method itself and its use in monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

In June 2005, the STREAM Initiative held its fourth Regional Conference, when colleagues from nine of the 11 countries in which we work came together in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was a significant event in the life of STREAM because we spent the three days reviewing, implementing and (finally) using our emerging M&E System after about three years of talking, thinking and writing about it.

The STREAM M&E System uses a combination of a significant change story method and reporting against objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs) to assess the outcomes and impacts of our work. STREAM projects from which the OVIs represented in these articles came, were supported by DFID, the European Community and FAO.

During the Regional Conference, STREAM Communications Hub Managers displayed posters with significant change stories they had collected from our stakeholders in the various STREAM countries. Some of these are presented in this *SJ4*(2).

We will let the story-tellers speak for themselves, through their various formats and intermediaries.

Happy reading!

Graham Haylor, STREAM Director
William Savage, *STREAM Journal* Editor

Changes in Jabarrah

Satyendra D Tripathi, as told by Thanda Mahato

An Awakening, Deepening and Earnings

Once a sleeping village, Jabarrah is no longer the same. It has been on the road to progress ever since the awakening brought about by the DFID-GVT[1] project and continues to chart new ground though the project is now over. A group of STREAM colleagues visited Jabarrah on 16 May 2005, and held discussions with the President and Secretary of the Village Committee. The village has 12 Self-Help Groups, seven women's and five men's.

Jabarrah has been sanctioned an amount of Rs 200,000 for deepening of the ponds under the Food-For-Work Program by the *Panchayat Samiti* (local government body), Rs 100,000 each for Bucha Bandh and Madhua Guria. Rs 40,000 have been sanctioned by the *Zilla Parisad* (district government body) for Huchak Guria. To ensure proper utilization of the funds, two committees have been constituted. Ms Thanda Mahato is a member of the Beneficiary Committee while there is another committee called *Gram Unnayan Committee* (Village Development Committee). These are meant to oversee the expenditure incurred on each item and prevent any manipulation. After the work commences, payment will be made at Rs 62/cft of earth removed – a job that will be completed in one day in lieu of 6 kg of rice.

Huchak Guria has been dewatered to a large extent to dry it up for deepening. The fish from the pond, which had grown well, were distributed free among all 145 village members twice during recent days, once at 1 kg per family and the second time at 500 g per family. Thus fish worth Rs 11,000 was harvested – common carp weighing 850 g, catla and silver carp 750 g each, rohu and mrigal 250-400 g each – and consumed by the villagers. The Beneficiary Committee also got orders from two parties to supply each with 70 kg of fish at Rs 40-50/kg depending on the size.

The growth of fish in Huchak Guria is good because there are a number of pits where villagers are preparing compost using the dung from the rich cattle population in the village. During rains, the washings from these pits go to the pond, fertilizing it at no expense. The compost is sold after one year at Rs 6/*jhuri* (bamboo basket) and the farmers get as much as Rs 2,000 from the sale of compost alone. Thanda too has a compost pit wherefrom she will get Rs 900.

The earnings from angling licenses were a little less than expected this year, being Rs 35,000 only as the fish were small in size and the licenses were issued only once for each of the two large ponds.

Individual, Group and Village Livelihoods – A Matter of Resources

There is a women's Self-Help Group called *Maa Kalyani* which had accounts at Mallabhum Gramin Bank. Ms Thanda Mahato is a leading member and President of the group. They have recently been recognized by the Hura *Panchayat Samiti* and have arranged for a bank loan under the central government-sponsored *Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojagar Yojana* (SJGSY) sheme. To avail of this, they closed their Mallabhum Gramin Bank accounts and opened new ones with the State Bank of India Kesargarh branch which covers their villages (service area). They set up a revolving fund of Rupees 10,000 and took Rs 15,000 as a loan. Thus, they have Rs 25,000 sanctioned for self-employment through income-generation. Of the loan, Rs 9,000 has already been repaid. The money was provided to the ten-member group to enable them to take up their own businesses of goat rearing, garment making, rice, vegetables and fish marketing. Based on the good performance of Thanda's group, they received a further Rs 10,000 to be used to increase their business.

[1] Department for International Development (UK government) – Gramin Vikas Trust (an Indian NGO)

The villagers organized a three-day *puja* (religious ceremony) from Sunday, 22 May, to pray to the rain god for good rains. Each person was contributing as decided by the village body and each of Thanda's group members were also contributing Rs 41, besides 1 kg each of rice and *chira* (pounded rice).

We also discussed the changes in Thanda's livelihood. During our last visit she had a bank balance of Rs 40,000 but now she was left with Rs 5,000 only owing to various expenses which she had to incur during this period. She was herself involved in selling fish as in the past, purchasing it from Purulia or Lalpur *aarat* (wholesale auction market) and then selling it from door-to-door in villages around Jabarrah, which fetched her anything from Rs 30-100 per day. However, this work was limited to winter months only as fish preserved in ice fetched a low price and spoiled by noon if ice was not used. She sometimes suffered a loss too.

Thanda Mahato with her grandson

Her husband, Mr Kalipada Mahato, goes for harvesting fish but has to hire a net that costs him Rs 200 which he pays after selling the catch (30% of the fish caught) himself or through his wife, Thanda. She has recently constructed a house on the land that belongs to her husband, spending Rs 70,000 for which she had to get the bricks for Rs 21,000, pay labor charges for five persons and two masons with food and also contribute two laborers from the family. A neem tree that she had was cut to be used for beams and other purposes.

An unexpected problem faced by Thanda was the premature birth of her grandson who weighed only 1.9 kg. She had to run to Purulia (district headquarters) and keep her daughter-in-law in the hospital and spend Rs 12,000 in just one month. To meet these expenses, she sold 14 goats at Rs 500 each, about 1,400 kg of rice which she had collected in lieu of the wages for grazing the village cattle for one year, 200 *huri* of cow dung cakes for Rs 1,000, and poultry for Rs 300, besides using another Rs 1,000 received from the salary of her two sons.

Of her four sons and one daughter, the eldest son and her daughter have been married. Her daughter has been widowed and has a school-going boy, who now stays with her. A total of 11 members stay in her house. Her youngest son and her grandson (daughter's son) go to school. She borrowed Rs 1,500 from a school teacher to put the two boys in school. Thanda works hard from daybreak to dusk and has been such a great support to her family! It was her planning and savings that helped her save the life of her grandson and build a house for them all.

Satyendra D Tripathi is an advisor to the STREAM Initiative based in Mumbai, India. He can be reached at <sd_tripathi@rediffmail.com>*. Thanda Mahato is a farmer in Jabarrah Village, Purulia District, West Bengal, India. She can be reached through the STREAM India Communications Hub Manager, Rubu Mukherjee, at* <rubumukherjee@yahoo.co.in>*.*

Palu Hijau in the Banggai Islands – Using Knowledge for Change

Akhdary Dj Supu, translated by Abigail Moore

Opportunities for Learning

I immediately recognized that the opportunity to work on a NACA-STREAM EC-PREP[2] case study in the Banggai Islands was an opportunity not to be missed. Though born and raised in a coastal area of Central Sulawesi, with extensive experience of working in coastal communities, I had no experience of the ornamental fish trade before this project, so I started with no pre-conceptions. As head of the socio-economic aspects of the study, the *Yayasan Palu Hijau* team and I found the STREAM livelihoods approach interesting and effective, resulting in an in-depth appreciation of the situation and allowing the building of contacts with and among stakeholders at many levels.

One significant gain for myself and YPH as an organization was information and knowledge regarding ornamental fish, especially the endemic Banggai Cardinal Fish (*Pterapogon kauderni*), which is the main species caught and traded by poorer local fishers, a major stakeholder group in our study. These fish live in symbiosis with Diadema sea urchins and to a lesser extent branching corals and sea anemones, and are easily caught in the extensive shallow coastal waters of the Banggai Archipelago, on reefs and reef flats, and in lagoons and seagrass areas.

YPH made many valuable contacts, including links with international experts willing to assist in practical measures to ensure that local fishers can continue to make a sustainable living, including with in-situ breeding technology. With STREAM Indonesia, YPH is now committed to follow-up activities in the Banggai Islands, including involvement in drawing up and implementing PERDA (district-level legislation) and PERDES (village-level legislation).

Demonstration of cyanide fishing: preparation (above) and use (below)

Opportunities for Awareness and Awakenings

Before the case study began, the Banggai Island district government had little awareness of the potential of the ornamental fishery. The current standard prices paid per fish by visiting buyers (which have changed little since 2001) are low. For example, Banggai Cardinal Fish are worth a mere Rupiah 300 (around US$ 0.03). There was no awareness of prices at higher trading levels, trade volume (over 1.4 million Banggai Cardinalfish alone in 2001), or of ornamental fishery-associated problems other than the use of cyanide, which is widespread in the capture of many ornamental species.

Members of both the executive and legislative district government have now realized the scale of the ornamental fishery, its potential for sustainable development and the threats from destructive and unregulated resource use – often by 'outsiders', especially from Bali and Java. This has awakened a desire to protect these valuable resources, including the endemic Banggai Cardinal Fish, in ways which ensure that the livelihoods of local fishers are improved in economic terms.

[2] European Community – Poverty Reduction Effectiveness Programme

Action through Participation

Limited financial and human resources at the district government level mean this can only be achieved through the active participation of communities in resource management. The district leaders have committed to developing local legislation for fisheries and marine resources, where conservation of the Banggai Cardinal Fish (through sustainable use) will play a key role in establishing sustainable coastal resources management. Communication channels opened up during the study are a starting point for community-government cooperation.

Ornamental fishers have been marginalized, often largely through lack of access to information and equipment, coupled with poor organization and low business and technical skill levels. Improving their livelihoods, in both economic and more general welfare terms, needs to become a focus of attention by local government. One practical step will be through facilitating active participation by fishers and their families as an integral part of the drive to improve the trade in ornamental fish, starting with the Banggai Cardinal Fish. The political will is there; now we all need to act!

Oxygen and other basic packing equipment: not currently available to fishers

Power of Education and the Marine Environment

As a teacher and high school headmaster for many years, I am always aware of the power of education. During the case study and follow-up visits to Banggai, we made contacts with teachers in local primary and secondary schools. As a result, YPH has been requested to participate in producing curriculum materials for the *Muatan Lokal* which means "local content". These materials can be developed at provincial, district or even individual school level, to give children knowledge about their local environment and culture.

Children, the future of the Banggai Islands: what will be in their hearts and minds?

Wherever we went, the children were fascinated by our marine survey activities, and obviously keen to learn about the underwater environment. Most are accomplished swimmers from an early age, interacting actively with their environment. Like their elders, they often have little or no ecological awareness, which can lead to unintentional and sometimes purposefully destructive activities. So far, few materials have been developed in many areas, including Banggai, especially relating to environmental resources.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make children aware from an early age of the importance of respecting the environment and using resources sustainably. The children and teachers can then become 'facilitators' for changing the attitudes and habits in older people also. In the long term, perhaps they could be the greatest agents of change, affecting not only immediate material welfare but hearts and minds, and the well-being of many generations to come.

For over 20 years, Akhdary Dj Supu has been an NGO activist and Director of Yayasan Palu Hijau (YPH), a conservation and community development NGO. He can be reached at <paluhijau@yahoo.com>. *Abigail Moore was a member of the EC-PREP Team and lives in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. She can be reached at* <abigailt@plasa.com>.

Banggai Islands Case Study – Building Foundations for Action

Samliok Ndobe, translated by Abigail Moore

Getting to Know the Islands

I was happy to have worked on the NACA-STREAM/EC-PREP[3] Banggai Islands case study undertaken by Yayasan Palu Hijau (YPH) in 2004-05. Banggai Kepulauan District covers the whole Banggai Archipelago. It has been an independent district since 1999, and is one of the poorest districts in Indonesia. I feel that many people here will benefit from the STREAM Initiative, and I would like to share some significant changes as a result of our activities.

Use of STREAM livelihoods tools in Panapat (above) and Bone Baru (below)

YPH as an organization and individuals on the team have benefited from STREAM through receiving the funding and assistance with 'tools' to undertake such work. It has allowed us to get to know in depth this area of our province and to become livelihoods analysis practitioners. Before, I thought I knew the Banggai Islands well, but in reality I had only a superficial perception, largely limited to environmental and fisheries aspects. Contact with local people and officials had been limited to official meetings or service provision. Several of my colleagues had never even visited the archipelago. One of our field team was a Banggai local, from Liang, and even he learned much about his home district that was new to him.

Knowledge and understanding about the potential and problems of the area will enable us to assist in forward planning and program development. This is specifically related to the ornamental fish trade, especially the endemic Banggai Cardinal Fish (*Pterapogon kauderni*), and more generally to the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Relationships with Stakeholders

We have forged relationships with a range of local stakeholders, both as groups and as individuals, including ornamental fishers, village leaders, government officers and service providers. We met non-local stakeholders involved in the local trade, such as buyers from Tumbak (North Sulawesi). We had the chance to meet and interact with stakeholders at national and even international levels, and we corresponded with experts in the field, mainly by email. These relationships are valuable for the success of future work and in some cases on a personal level, as strong friendships have developed.

Ornamental fishing transaction

Benefits to the local government include availability of socio-economic and biophysical baseline data and increased awareness about the potential and challenges of the ornamental fishery, a sector previously almost unknown to the authorities. Of particular importance is their awareness of the Banggai Cardinal Fish, a valuable asset which is threatened with at least localized

[3] European Community – Poverty Reduction Effectiveness Program

extinction by current practices. The communication during the STREAM activities – between government sectors and levels, between the government and community members, and with YPH – opened doors to greater understanding and increased or more effective cooperation, especially in improved resources management, community empowerment and poverty alleviation.

The coastal communities, especially ornamental fishers and their families, were of course a major focus of the YPH-STREAM case study. Increased awareness and channels of communication opened during the livelihoods analysis, both within and between various groups and with people and organizations outside the communities themselves. By sharing their livelihoods stories, and thereby enabling others to understand the real conditions in which they live, they have opened up the possibility for more effective assistance and cooperation with the full range of stakeholders. Community members have increased knowledge of the ornamental fish trade beyond their locality, and of the impacts of their activities on the resource and their future well-being. This will enable them to improve the profitability and sustainability of their livelihoods, especially related to the ornamental fishery.

Meeting ornamental traders at the World Aquaculture Symposium 2005 in Bali, Indonesia

The program initiator and funding agency, the European Community, will receive baseline data on the capture and trading of ornamental fish in Indonesia (specifically the Banggai Archipelago), the livelihoods of collectors, and the links between the trade and poverty, as a basis for the design and implementation of effective programs for poverty reduction. The widespread distribution of the data and information from the case study – via reports, stakeholder meetings at district, provincial and national levels, a presentation at the World Aquaculture Symposium 2005 in Bali and shortly via NACA-STREAM publications – has already attracted attention. Further interest and involvement is likely from academia and business investors, NGOs, government agencies, and other concerned individuals and organizations. Proposals have been made to relevant local, national and international funding sources for follow-up activities, though it is too soon to measure success.

From Foundations to Political Will and Empowerment

Based on the foundations laid during the Banggai case study and follow-up activities to date, I foresee a range of positive outcomes including the continued development of local programs which will improve the livelihoods of ornamental fishers, and will have positive impacts for other community members. The district government and the community at large will benefit from the improvement in economic activity and trade mechanisms in the ornamental fish trade through sustainable contributions to district income, which is badly needed for provision of basic services such as health and education, especially for the most vulnerable families in the communities.

The awareness and political will regarding sustainable marine resources management and stakeholder involvement can lead to community empowerment in the management of marine and coastal resources. This can be facilitated by local NGOs and educational establishments (such as the Institute of Higher Education for Fisheries and Marines Studies [STPL-Palu], and local fisheries and marine high schools), backed by national and international experts and donors, and given legal force by establishment of local-level (village and district) legislation.

Samliok Ndobe is Head of the Institute of Higher Education for Fisheries and Marines Studies (STPL-Palu), and was Team Leader for the NACA-STREAM/EC-PREP Banggai Islands case study. He can be reached at <samndobe@yahoo.com>*. Abigail Moore was a member of the EC-PREP Team and lives in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. She can be reached at* <abigailt@plasa.com>*.*

Three Stories from Nepal

A Symbiotic Relationship between Fishers and Restaurants

Ghanshayam Poudel and Suraj, Journalists

Description

There is a peaceful village market in Pame, a town where the young people of Pokhara go on holiday and during leisure time to enjoy eating tasty freshwater fish. There are about 12 restaurants selling cooked and fried fish in a variety of dishes. In the rainy season, catla, bam, sahar and phagate are available to eat, while in winter there are chucheban, phageta, rewa and bhoti.

Ten years ago Dol Raj Subedi came to Pame from Kaski Kot. He and his wife started a tea shop in a rented house, where they cooked and sold fish. Now they are running a restaurant in their own house in the same place. They earned Rs 1.5 million in ten years by selling cooked fish. Dol Raj Subedi said that he could not earn that much money if he had gone to work in a foreign country.

A plate of tasty fish from Dol Raj Subedi's restaurant

Many young couples like to go to Pame to eat tasty fish and express their affection in a peaceful environment. As a result, three hundred fishers have improved their livelihoods by selling fish caught from Phewa Lake to restaurants like that of Dol Raj Subedi.

Lesson Learned

Fishers and restaurant owners will mutually benefit when aquaculture and business are well linked. Government should promote these kinds of businesses. Even in places away from city areas, poor people can benefit from this kind of aquatic resources development. There are several equally prospective places like Pame to develop throughout the country.

Demonstrating a Convincing Tool for Technology Adoption

Ramesh Gautam (Program Officer), Pashupati Chaudhary (Field Officer) and Anil Subedi (Executive Director), Local Initiative for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Description

Mr Indra Gurung of Baradi, Tanahun, started fish farming in ponds in 1992-93. He also used to culture fish in his rice field without technical assistance from any research station. He did not know about trenches and their benefits. When a project funded by the Hill Agriculture Research Program (HARP) on rice-fish culture was implemented in the Baradi area, he participated as one of six research farmers in the area. He started growing fish in his rice field with a proper trench. He recalls the moment when the technicians asked him to dig a trench in the middle of his paddy field. He was not comfortable with its purpose at that time. But later when the function of the trench in rice-fish farming was explained to him – and the importance of having a trench as the "live saving place" for fish – he agreed to follow the suggestion.

After the completion of the project, he was convinced about the technology. He was able to harvest about 12 kg of fish from his one-*ropani* (0.05 ha) rice field with no reduction in the rice yield. He then converted his original fishpond (about three *ropani* or 0.15 ha) into a paddy field and integrated fish into it in 2000. In the spring of 2001, he harvested about 40 kg of fish and 400 kg of paddy (with no reduction in yield) from one parcel (about two *ropani* or 0.10 ha) of his rice-fish farm. He is pleased to have extra income from integrating fish in his paddy field, which is almost the same as the total value of the paddy. Convinced by the results, he extended his rice-fish farming to seven *ropani* and obtained a total of 75 kg of fish within the paddy growing period. He believes that demonstration of successful farming is the most convincing tool for other farmers to adopt the technology.

Lesson Learned

For farmers to adopt new technology in aquaculture it is necessary to provide constant technical backstopping and involve farmers in demonstrations. This provides opportunities for farmers to see directly the benefits of new technology.

Enforcement of Neighbors in Technology Adoption

Muralidhar Mishara and Chet Nath Adhikari, Extensionists, Department of Agriculture

Description

Mr Ojha is a traditional farmer with a rice field near his home. He was unaware of rice-fish faming. He recently started to cultivate winter rice (Chaite-45) with the aid of irrigation facilities. An extensionist and researcher working with the Uptake Pathway Project of HARP (HiII Agriculture Research Program) met Mr Ojha. A few neighbor farmers were already convinced about rice-fish farming in the area but he was not, even though he owned a lowland rice field that was highly suitable for rice-fish farming. His neighbors again approached him about considering the suitability of his rice field. At that time he become slightly positive and was ready to stock 300 fingerlings. He was oriented for a few hours on rice-fish farming and was provided with net materials for a snake trap and to put in an inlet and outlet.

At first he stocked the 300 fingerlings with Chaite-45 but then after ten days he approached the Fishery Research Centre in Pokhara and requested 600 additional fingerlings. His demand was met. He observed the fish every day. He fed the fish whenever they approached the nearby trench, about four days a week.

After the fish were stocked in the rice field he did not need to remove the weeds and his rice production improved slightly more than in previous years. He sold 60 kg of fish and his family consumed 5 kg. Now, he is the best persuader of rice-fish farming in his area.

Lesson Learned

To convince farmers to adopt aquaculture technology, extensionists must use multiple channels to pass on messages. Some farmers believe more in what their neighbors say than what outsiders say.

The authors of these stories can be reached through the STREAM Nepal Communications Hub Manager, Nilkanth Pokharel, at <nilkanthpokharel@yahoo.com>*.*

Me and My Work

Sheryll Alcazar

A Strange New Way to Work

The Income Diversification component of the Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP) is being implemented by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Office 6 in Sapian Bay, Panay Island, Western Visayas, Philippines. It has three subcomponents: Community Organizing, Micro-enterprise Development and Mariculture. FRMP aims to alleviate poverty among municipal fisherfolk and reduce further coastal resource degradation.

Since September 2003, I have been responsible for the Community Organizing subcomponent of FRMP. My tasks include facilitating activities between the contracted non-governmental organizations and BFAR, reviewing and evaluating NGO reports, monitoring and validating NGO activities in the field, assisting in the promotion of micro-enterprise, meeting with fisherfolk organizations and coordinating with project partners such as the local government units (LGUs) of the three municipalities (Sapian and Ivisan in Capiz, and Batan in Aklan).

Sheryll in a story-telling session with school kids in Camanci, Sapian Bay, during the launching of the Barangay Learning Resource Center

Community organizing and micro-enterprise development are quite strange to me because I have a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and was a Fisheries Processing Technology graduate. Way back in the University, I learned technical stuff that mainly focused on processing technology, including such subjects as product development, fish preservation and processing, and quality control. My experience was mostly with laboratory work in the fish processing industry. It never crossed my mind that I would be dealing with fisherfolk to implement a project such as FRMP.

As a BFAR staff, part of the Contract of Services states that I will perform duties and responsibilities as required by my superiors. This would mean also doing tasks that are not my "cup of tea" (e.g., community organizing). It is a good thing that I am flexible enough to learn community organizing skills. By the way, community organizing and micro-enterprise development go hand in hand because FRMP could not just give livelihoods projects to individuals but to organizations that are ready (strengthened and capacitated) to manage their groups and their livelihoods projects.

Dealing with Project Stakeholders

The project stakeholders are composed mainly of fisherfolk and others who are farmers at the same time. Dealing with coastal communities is quite tough because it involves a lot of consideration and patience. Honestly, great adjustments were made because being so technical would not be a good strategy. I have to make my approach simple, and relate to the experiences

of the community as I share my own experience with them. I have to talk in the local dialect (Ilonggo), and translate and explain technical terms clearly by giving concrete examples that are familiar to local people. I learned that people do not care what you know unless they know that you care. They would be not so friendly at a first meeting but eventually when they see that you are sincere in what you are doing, that your purpose is good, they would really listen, and care for you.

Experiences and Learning in the Workshop

My participation in the BFAR/NACA-STREAM/FAO Workshop on Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis (in November 2003) confirmed that the way I am working with the community is on the right track. The workshop was a good start for me because I presented the output of my group, the Sapian Bay Team. It is true that as a field worker I should first learn to understand how people live in Sapian Bay, which I did by reading NGO reports to get first-hand information and have a 'feel' for the community. The field visit to the Talokgangan community was a good activity for us to practice what we learned in the workshop, like the roles of facilitators and tools for learning and communicating about livelihoods. The question guide for the report presentation after the community visit also helped us in sharing what we learned.

Furthermore, I learned techniques in the facilitation of activities which I apply in the conduct of trainings in the field. The participatory approach is an effective way for the team members to share ideas and experiences. To me, being participatory means listening to participant suggestions, answers and comments and further elaborating on them, and starting each workshop session with a question. I have been able to use what I learned about the style of the workshop in my own work with communities. This includes strategies for conducting sessions, applying what is learned during community visits, sharing of experiences and learning after the visit, planning of activities and follow-up actions after the workshop, formulating a livelihoods analysis guide, and the sharing of significant changes experienced by participants.

Explanation

A participatory approach to working with coastal communities in implementing livelihoods projects is important. Through such a way of working, any decisions are the result of sharing ideas among members of the organization and discussions of the pros and cons. A feeling of ownership of the project is developed through this approach. Hence, the members would give more to make the project successful.

Who Chose the Story?

I chose this story because I think that, as a beginner in community organizing, the livelihoods approaches workshop enhanced my ways of working in the field, as did informal discussions with the STREAM Philippines Communications Hub Manager, Bebet Gonzales.

Lessons or Recommendations for STREAM

I think STREAM should produce a guide on livelihood approaches that could support technical persons in the field, especially in implementing livelihoods projects. This would also be helpful to make them aware and practice appropriate ways of working with coastal communities.

Sheryll Alcazar is a Technical Staff of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Office 6, working on the Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP). She can be reached at <peekrocksoc@yahoo.com>*.*

Livelihoods Approaches – Skills Learned, Applied and Shared

Monica Piquero-Tan

No Stranger to Participatory Approaches, But …

Monica (second from left) with the EC-PREP Team preparing materials for pre-testing of tools

I am a field coordinator of the Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) working in Bohol, Cebu and Tawi-Tawi. In November 2003, I participated in the BFAR/NACA-STREAM/FAO Workshop on Livelihood Approaches and Analysis in Iloilo City. From the workshop I came to know more about participatory approaches, facilitation and tools. I am not really a stranger to these things, having been working with coastal resources management projects for years. However, the workshop sessions were designed and facilitated in such a way that I learned more about effectively using the tools to gather data and information in the field. As part of the workshop we had a community visit where we had an opportunity to practice the approaches and tools we were learning about. I was doubly fortunate to be part of the STREAM/EC-PREP team that conducted a case study on the ornamental fish trade from May to August 2004. I got to gain more experience of the methods and tools learned during the workshop (e.g., focus group discussions, interviews, communication issues). As I learned more about STREAM's "ways of working" (as they call it), I gained more confidence and became more comfortable using the tools.

Opportunities to Apply and Share Learning

Engagement with STREAM was timely because in August 2004 I was assigned to assist our new area manager in implementing the MAC Certification Program in Tawi-Tawi in Mindanao through the training of new collectors. The task was quite daunting because we had to deal with several stakeholder groups, some of which have hostile reputations: the mayor's favored constituents, the *barangay* captain's favored groups, the Mindanao National Liberation Front (MNLF), and all interested fishers in the area.

The immediate aim was to identify 100 fishers who should take the training. The main concern was that there were so many who were interested to take advantage of the project and yet we had limited time to meet the scheduled project launching. Furthermore, I myself had little time left because I was seven months pregnant and could not stay with the team for the whole duration.

Recalling my recent experience in participatory planning and community engagement with the EC-PREP Project, I decided to conduct a 'crash' planning workshop-cum-training on participatory tools with the team (mostly new recruits). What I learned during the EC-PREP case study was put to good use, i.e., using the communication issues tool, identifying specific objectives and corresponding activities, scheduling, tasking, identification of appropriate methods and tools to use for data collection, guide questions to go with focus group discussions and interviews, and deciding on stakeholders to interview.

Our team facilitated a general meeting to present the project. We conducted one-on-one interviews with the mayor, the municipal agriculturalist and leaders of the different groups. We also held focus group discussions with five or ten members of each stakeholder group right after the general meeting.

Monica observing and interviewing Nong Tusing, a Batasan Fish Collectors Association (BATFCA) diver, as he places his sorted catch in a holding pen

With the initial data and information on hand, we had a team meeting and invited local community organizer partners to participate. Again the use of the communications issues tool was helpful during discussion of key issues between and among stakeholders. I suggested that we develop criteria for choosing the trainees based on the information we had (again a lesson from the EC-PREP experience) and we did that after some discussions.

As a result, we finally identified the 100 trainees and launched the project by the target date with almost 90% participation of the entire Simunul Municipality represented by the different stakeholder groups.

Explanation

Development work is a challenging task that requires not only dedication and commitment (which should be a given) but also appropriate skills to make one an effective agent for change. I felt that learning more about better ways of working – or approaches to more deeply understand the livelihoods of people I want to help in my role as a field coordinator – makes me more effective in performing my task. Having the capacity to share these skills and lessons learned with other colleagues makes it more heart-warming and inspiring.

Who Chose the Story?

I chose this story because this is the first thing that entered my mind when Bebet [STREAM Philippines Communications Hub Manager] asked me if I could write a story about my engagement with STREAM. Bebet calls or texts me from time to time just to say 'hi' and ask me about my baby and my work. Recently she called me and asked if I wanted to write the things I told her before, about how I made use of the tools (learned from the livelihoods workshop) during our MAC planning workshop in Manila and in Tawi-Tawi - and I did.

Lessons or Recommendations for STREAM

Within its resources, STREAM should conduct follow-up capacity-building workshops and facilitate more opportunities to work with them so that STREAM's ways of working could really be understood and assimilated by stakeholders like us.

Monica Piquero-Tan works with the Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) as a Field Coordinator for the Visayas in the Philippines. She can be reached at <charity_nic@yahoo.com>.

About the STREAM Journal

Published by STREAM – Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) Secretariat
Suraswadi Building
Department of Fisheries Compound
Kasetsart University Campus
Ladyao, Jatujak, Bangkok 10903
Thailand

Purpose

The *STREAM Journal* is published quarterly to promote participation, communication and policies that support the livelihoods of poor aquatic resources users in Asia-Pacific, and to build links within the aquatic resources management and other sectors across the region. The *STREAM Journal* covers issues related to people whose livelihoods involve aquatic resources management, especially people with limited resources, and government, non-governmental and international practitioners who work with them in communities. Such issues include learning, conflict management, information and communications technologies, aquatic resources management, legislation, livelihoods, gender, participation, stakeholders, policy and communications.

Another equally important purpose of the *STREAM Journal* is to provide an opportunity for seldom-raised voices to be heard and represented in a professional publication that is practical yet somewhat academic. The contents of the *STREAM Journal* should not be taken as reflecting the views of any particular organization or agency, but as statements by individuals based on their own experience. While authors are responsible for the contents of their articles, STREAM recognizes and takes responsibility for any editorial bias and oversights.

Distribution

The *STREAM Journal* is available in three formats:

- An electronic PDF version which is printed and distributed by the STREAM Communications Hubs in each country
- A version which can be accessed and downloaded in PDF format from the Virtual Library on the STREAM Website at www.streaminitiative.org, and
- A printed version which is distributed by the NACA Secretariat.

Contribution

The *STREAM Journal* encourages the contribution of articles of interest to aquatic resources users and people who work with them. The *STREAM Journal* also supports community-level colleagues to document their own experiences in these pages.

Articles should be written in plain English and no more than 1,000 words long (about two A4 pages of single-spaced text).

Contributions can be made to William Savage, *STREAM Journal* Editor, at <savage@loxinfo.co.th>. For more information, contact Graham Haylor, STREAM Director, at <ghaylor@loxinfo.co.th>.

About STREAM

Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management (STREAM) is an Initiative designed within the five-year Work Program cycle of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA). It aims to support agencies and institutions to:

- Utilize existing and emerging information more effectively
- Better understand poor people's livelihoods, and
- Enable poor people to exert greater influence over policies and processes that impact on their lives.

STREAM will do this by supporting the development of policies and processes of mediating institutions, and building capacity to:

- Identify aquatic resources management issues impacting on the livelihoods of poor people
- Monitor and evaluate different management approaches
- Extend information, and
- Network within and between sectors and countries.

The STREAM Initiative is based around partnerships, involving at the outset a coalition of founding partners (AusAID, DFID, FAO and VSO) supporting NACA. It has adopted an inclusive approach, reaching out to link stakeholders engaged in aquatic resources management and supporting them to influence the Initiative's design, implementation and management.

The partnerships' work is coordinated in each Country Office through a National Coordinator (a senior national colleague agreed with the government) and a Communications Hub Manager (a full-time national colleague supported in the first two years by STREAM), and linking a range of national stakeholders. The Communications Hub is provided with hardware, software, training, information-technology support, and networking and human resources support, and links national stakeholders through an internet-based virtual regional network.

National coordination is guided by an annually-reviewed Country Strategy Paper (CSP) drawn up by the Coordinator and Hub Manager in consultation with stakeholders with whom they regularly network. A CSP identifies key issues, highlights regional linkages, proposes and prioritizes key actions, and seeks funding for these from STREAM and elsewhere (with STREAM support).

The STREAM Regional Office (at the NACA Secretariat in Bangkok) directs the Initiative, provides a regional coordination function, and funds and manages cross-cutting activities dealing with livelihoods, institutions, policy development and communications, the four outcomes-based STREAM themes.

STREAM implementation is an iterative process, initially operating in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Yunnan, China, and expanding within Asia-Pacific where opportunities exist to tackle poverty and promote good governance, as experience is gained, lessons are learned, impact is demonstrated and additional funding is secured. STREAM's communications strategy aims to increase impact by ensuring that existing knowledge and expertise inform ongoing change processes around the region, and that the lessons learned are disseminated throughout Asia-Pacific. The *STREAM Journal* and the STREAM website are components of this strategy.

STREAM Communications Hub Managers

Cambodia	Sophat Chun	<cfdo@camnet.com.kh>
India	Rubu Mukherjee	<rubumukherjee@rediffmail.com>
Indonesia	Aniza Suspita	<indostream@perikanan-budidaya.go.id>
Myanmar	Khin Maung Soe	<aquadof@myanmar.com.mm>
Nepal	Nilkanth Pokhrel	<agroinfo@wlink.com.np>
Pakistan	Muhammad Junaid Wattoo	<junaid_narc@yahoo.com>
Philippines	Elizabeth Gonzales	<streambfar-phil@skyinet.net>
Sri Lanka	Chatura Rodrigo	<athulahsenaratne@yahoo.com>
Vietnam	Nguyen Song Ha	<streamsapa@vietel.com.vn>
Yunnan, China	Susan Li	<blueseven@mail.china.com>