

STREAM



Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management



FAO TCP/RAS/2908
Assistance in Poverty Alleviation through Improved Aquatic Resources
Management in Asia-Pacific
May 2003 - April 2005

Yunnan DOA/NACA-STREAM/FAO Workshop
on Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis

Mengzi, Yunnan, China
6-10 September 2004

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Acronyms

DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DOA	Department of Agriculture Yunnan Province
DOF	Division of Fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PRA	Participatory Rural Development
SPARK	Sharing and Promotion of Awareness and Regional Knowledge
STREAM	Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCP	Technical Cooperation Program
UK	United Kingdom

Acknowledgements

The success of this workshop was due to the involvement and participation of several individuals and groups. We would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of:

“[Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis] is like adding a pair of wings to a tiger.”

Ms Feng Gui Fang, Hong He

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- The community of Jinfuzhuangxiaozhai Village who gave up their time to meet with the livelihoods teams and tell their stories.

Executive Summary

This is the report of the “Yunnan DOA/NACA-STREAM/FAO Workshop on Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis” that was conducted in Mengzi, Yunnan from 6-10 September 2004. The purpose of the workshop was to develop and document mechanisms for training in livelihoods approaches and analysis, and to build national capacity to conduct livelihoods analysis. The workshop in Yunnan was the first STREAM event in China, with colleagues coming to participate from throughout the province. It was the fifth workshop in a series, the first of which was held in Iloilo City, Philippines, in November 2003, the second in Ranchi, India, in February 2004, third in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in March 2004 and the fourth in Yangon, Myanmar, in May 2004.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Understand issues of interest to people whose livelihoods include aquatic resources management, especially those with limited resources
- Build “livelihoods teams” to do livelihoods analyses and training, and share their experiences with communities and other stakeholders
- Share understandings of livelihoods approaches and analysis using participatory methods
- Review translated NACA-STREAM livelihoods analysis documentation, adapt and supplement, towards the drafting of a *Guide for Livelihoods Analysis*
- Experience the use of participatory tools for livelihoods analysis
- Plan activities for carrying out livelihoods analyses

The week was spent exploring the complex nature of communities and groups with whom we work and sharing understandings about how best to learn about their livelihoods. The now substantial *Guide for Livelihoods Analysis* was too large to translate into Chinese. Therefore key documents from the collection of STREAM materials from around the region were translated and used to help participants understand livelihoods analysis processes. These were the Cambodian livelihoods tools document, the livelihoods study from Saob Leu, Cambodia, and *STREAM Journal 1(4)*, with articles from a STREAM livelihoods workshop in Long An, Vietnam, and also the workshop program.

A central element of the workshop was a visit to Jinfuzhuangxiaozhai Village in Shengcun Township in the high mountain area of Tian Yang County, where participants tried out some of the livelihoods analysis tools in discussions with members of the Ha Ni ethnic group. In addition to gaining information about the village community itself, participants also gained important insights into how best to conduct livelihoods analyses.

Follow-up actions from this workshop include the dissemination of information about livelihoods approaches and analysis in Yunnan and continued work on the development and use of livelihoods approaches and analysis in the Yunnan Department of Agriculture.

Introduction

Context

The “Yunnan DOA/NACA-STREAM/FAO Workshop on Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis” is an activity within an FAO¹-funded Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) under the project entitled “Assistance in Poverty Alleviation through Improved Aquatic Resources Management in Asia-Pacific”. The workshop was organized in Mengzi city in Yunnan with the Yunnan Department of Agriculture, the host partner of NACA²-STREAM’s³ Yunnan Office. The workshop (program in Appendix 1) is the fifth in a series, the first of which was conducted in Iloilo City, Philippines, in November 2003, the second in Ranchi, India, (with Nepalese and Indian participants) in February 2004, the third in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in March 2004 and the fourth in Yangon, Myanmar, in May 2004.

The FAO-TCP provides technical assistance to build national and regional capacity in livelihoods approaches and analysis and to empower a wide range of stakeholders, including rural poor people, through strengthened learning and communications channels, to encourage, support and strengthen on-going aquatic resources management policy change processes in the region.

Purpose and Objectives

Related to the FAO-TCP outputs, the purpose of this workshop was to develop and document mechanisms for training in livelihoods approaches and analysis, and to build national capacity. The objectives were for participants to:

- Understand issues of interest to people whose livelihoods include aquatic resources management, especially those with limited resources
- Build “livelihoods teams” to do livelihoods analyses and training, and share their experiences with communities and other stakeholders
- Share understandings of livelihoods approaches and analysis using participatory methods
- Review current NACA-STREAM livelihoods analysis documentation, adapt and supplement, towards the drafting of a *Guide for Livelihoods Analysis*
- Experience the use of participatory tools for livelihoods analysis
- Plan activities for carrying out livelihoods analyses

Inputs, Outputs and Outcomes

The workshop was informed by the learning and documentation which emerged from a “livelihoods workshop-series” in Cambodia and Vietnam, carried out in pre-STREAM 2001 by NACA with DFID⁴ support, as well as by outputs from other NACA-STREAM-related livelihoods initiatives. Three of these were translated into Chinese:

- The Cambodian livelihoods tools document
- A livelihoods study from Saob Leu, Cambodia, and
- *STREAM Journal 1(4)*, with articles from a STREAM livelihoods workshop in Vietnam.

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

² Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific

³ Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management

⁴ Department for International Development, UK

It was anticipated that one eventual output from this workshop would be a revision of the draft outline of a *Guide for Livelihoods Analysis*, which has been modified through the series of FAO-TCP “Workshops on Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis”. The second workshop output would be livelihoods analysis activity plans.

Additionally, the workshop was expected to initiate the formation of groups of stakeholders (“livelihoods teams”) to look into “livelihoods” as an integral and sustainable development approach. These teams could support organizations and agencies interested in implementing a participatory livelihoods approach.

The core members of each team are expected to be drawn from the workshop participants (Appendix 2), while the whole team would consist of representatives from Yunnan Department of Agriculture, Fisheries Division and Fisheries Departments from prefectures in Yunnan.

For the purposes of the workshop, the participants were initially grouped into four teams, which were:

1. Hong He Prefecture (six border counties with Vietnam and Lao PDR)
2. Inner counties of Hong He
3. Kunming, Wenshang and Chuxiong prefectures, and
4. Diqing, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna prefectures.

Self-selected groups worked together based around the use of particular livelihoods tools during other activities and discussions, including the community visit.

Day One

Welcoming Statements

Mr Li Baowen of the Hong He Prefecture government opened the workshop and said this is a golden time for Mengzi County to hold the workshop. On behalf of Hong He Prefecture government, he welcomed all participants, congratulated the opening ceremony, and then provided participants with some basic information about Hong He (Box 1).

Box 1

Hong He (Red River) Prefecture

Hong He Prefecture is located in the southeast part of Yunnan Province, with an 848-km border with Vietnam. Its total area is 32,951 km², covering 30 counties and 142 townships where 4,130,000 people live. The prefecture is named after the Red River, the main river flowing through the region, besides more than 60 other rivers and 11 freshwater lakes. This rich natural resource potentially serves as a firm background for local fisheries development, and in fact Hong He's fisheries and aquaculture sector has been developed to some extent. However, in comparison to other municipalities and prefectures, there is still big room for further growth.

Mr Yang Zhimin, the Vice-Director General of the Provincial Agriculture Department, welcomed the workshop participants and thanked NACA-STREAM for selecting Mengzi to be the workshop venue. He reiterated that the workshop resulted from cooperation between Yunnan Provincial Government, NACA-STREAM and FAO, and commented that this is just a beginning of an experience to exchange progress that will be valuable for aquatic resources management. He hoped that participants would learn experiences from other countries, so that workshop outcomes will be a good reference for the province to utilize aquatic resources in a sustainable way and help people improve their livelihoods. Recently, the Yunnan government has played an important role in promoting rice-fish culture practice, which is seen to be a good option to increase living standards of many local people who live under the poverty line. After the launch of an extension program, fisheries and aquaculture have now contributed significantly to food security and family income generation; aquaculture is a good tool to bring people out of poverty. He also hoped NACA-STREAM, with its vast range of experience in other countries, will replicate success stories in Yunnan. Mr Yang ended his speech by wishing the participants good health and a successful workshop.

Bill Savage thanked to participants for coming, and conveyed to them Pedro Bueno's (NACA General Director) and Graham Haylor's (STREAM Director) greetings. He briefed the workshop participants on the NACA organization and its STREAM Initiative that is already working in eleven countries. He said this is the first STREAM meeting in Yunnan after twice delaying, so as to have Mr Zhang and Ms Susan Li, who attended the Third STREAM Regional Conference in Cambodia, to be with the STREAM Yunnan Office. This workshop, funded by FAO under the TCP program, aims to build capacity for livelihoods analysis and share experiences in livelihoods processes in the region. STREAM is a learning and communications initiative, so it encourages people to learn together about aquatic resources and fisheries management for livelihoods improvement. He thanked the local authorities and participants for their hospitality.

Mr Zhang Zhiyong, Yunnan Fisheries Director, highlighted that this is a great opportunity to hold the workshop in Mengzi, Yunnan, which is strongly supported by the Provincial

Agriculture Department and Hong He Prefecture Government. In the preparation period for the workshop, some agenda modifications have been made and materials have been translated into Chinese to facilitate the participation by local officials. He hoped participants would make their best efforts in contributing to discussions, and reminded them to look at aquatic resources management experiences of rural communities in other countries. He also told them that the workshop will not be in a classroom style but instead, presentations will be made and followed by discussions. He expected that participants from the seven prefectures present would master a number of PRA tools for future use.

Introduction of Participants

Participants introduced themselves, said where they were from and where they worked (list in Appendix 2, photo in Figure 1).



Figure 1 Workshop Participants

Experiences and Expectations

As a way of sharing understandings about the purpose, objectives, inputs, outputs and outcomes of the workshop, and to find out how familiar participants were with livelihoods concepts, they were asked to discuss their experiences of livelihoods approaches and their expectations of this workshop.

Hong He Prefecture Border Counties

Experiences → Based on the resources, best use is made of the biological and aquatic resources to help farmers to improve their living conditions. Border areas belong to the state but the natural environment is not so good, so the fisheries department focuses on rice fields for increasing the local economic conditions and income.

Expectations → Hope to find a proper method to improve the local livelihoods and living conditions. Hope to make closer contact with NACA-STREAM and FAO to help solve problems of poverty through the development of aquatic resources.

Kunming, Wenshang and Chuxiong Prefectures

Experiences → Mainly experiences in helping farmers to raise production and lower costs, specifically pond culture and rice-fish culture technologies.

Expectations → The fish farmers take fish to markets to make money. The group hopes the NACA-STREAM experts will help us on how to make the most of this.

Hong He Prefecture Inner Counties

Experiences → The main experiences we have are through making good use of aquatic resources to develop livelihoods and living conditions and to find out the best methods to resolve the poverty situation for many farmers.

Expectations → We expect to enhance the exchange between other colleagues and to get experiences of how to protect and support aquatic resources with support from the STREAM Initiative.

Diqing, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna Prefectures

Experiences → We work to help people to meet their need for food through fish capture and to trade their catch for income and to fulfill their needs, also through aquaculture, mainly pond and rice-fish culture, and to protect and conserve the fish resources.

Expectations → We expect to learn the livelihoods approaches and methodology and the methodology for livelihoods analysis, which we hope will help us to “fill up the holes” (the technology approach is not enough). We want to preserve indigenous cultures and beliefs, not just fish resources. We hope that through this workshop the organization will have a better approach along the border in areas dominated by minority groups. We would like to see a kind of network established to help us to communicate the expanded understanding of the livelihoods of people, perhaps within Yunnan and between Yunnan and the other border countries, to communicate better about the issues which concern us.

Facilitator Comment

The experiences so far are focused on the technology and the resources themselves, which is not a surprise since we all come from technical departments. The groups also talked about an expanded understanding of aquatic resources management. What we hope to do with the STREAM partnership is to encourage the use of a livelihoods approach to develop that understanding.

Expectations were also highlighted about exchange of information. We will be talking about how that will happen through the STREAM Yunnan Communications Hub. We hope this is the start of a long relationship between the Yunnan department and the STREAM Initiative.

Facilitator Comment

This kind of networking is exactly the role for STREAM and the reason for the Communications Hub in Kunming. These experiences and expectations have given us a good basis for considering our work further.

Introduction to NACA-STREAM, FAO and DOA

Graham Haylor gave an overview of the relationships between NACA-STREAM, FAO and DOA (Yunnan) and explained the relationships and partnerships that exist already with STREAM in China. STREAM’s way of working through partnerships with countries and individuals is sometimes complex to understand (Figure 2).

China is one of 16 member countries of the inter-governmental Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and one of the lead centers for aquaculture in Asia-Pacific is located at Wuxi in Jiang Su Province. We are pleased to have with us today Mr Xiaowei from Wuxi and the NACA Secretariat as our translator and co-facilitator.

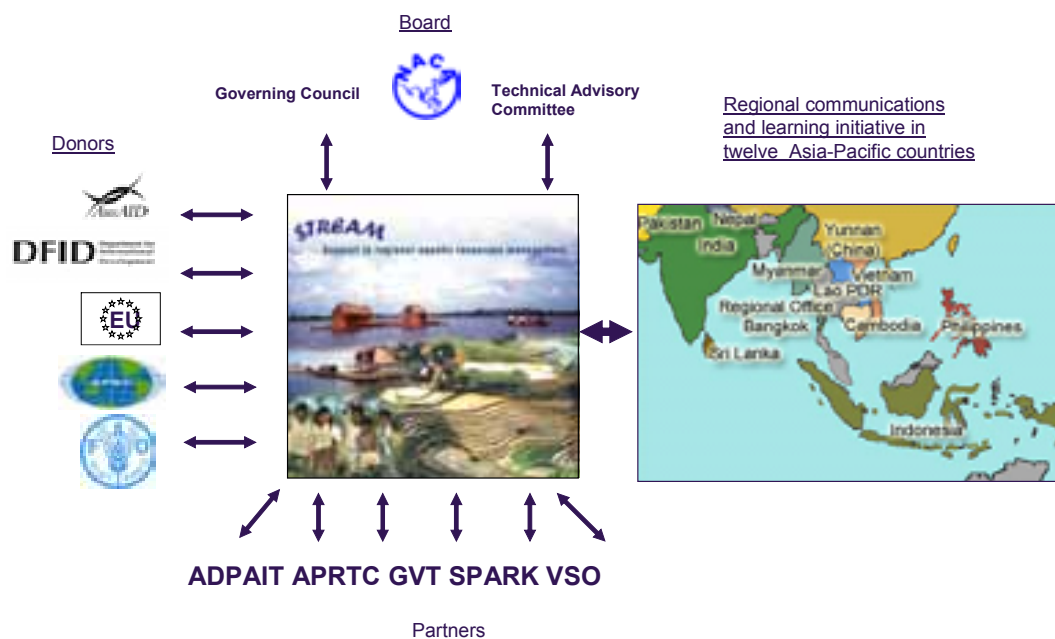


Figure 2 Partnerships and Relationships Associated with STREAM

The STREAM Initiative, which Bill Savage, Song Ha and I contribute to, forms a core program of NACA, and was introduced in 2002 to deal especially with aquaculture and aquatic resources management in support of the livelihoods of poor people. This is not the highly technical part of NACA's work but about understanding people's lives and livelihoods, and finding ways in which institutions and policies can support people's and how communications about these issues can be communicated.

Following discussions between officials in Beijing and Kunming with NACA and STREAM, a Partnership Agreement was drafted. A STREAM Country Office is becoming established in association with the Department of Agriculture of Yunnan in Kunming, which is the office which deals with fisheries, as well as animal husbandry, economic arable crops, agricultural machinery, finance and planning, and technical extension in Yunnan. We were pleased to have with us earlier the Vice-Director General of the Department of Agriculture, Mr Yang Zhimin, the Coordinator for STREAM Yunnan (Director of Fisheries, Mr Zhang Zhiyong) and the STREAM Communications Hub Manager (Project Official within the Foreign Affairs Office of the Department of Agriculture, Ms Li Hong Yun (whom we know as Susan Li).

Mr Zhang Zhiyong and Susan Li have already contributed to the STREAM Regional Conference in Cambodia this year, and FAO, through a Technical Cooperation Program, will be providing some equipment to the STREAM Office in Kunming to help it link with the other ten country partners in the regional STREAM Initiative. It is our partner FAO that is now funding this workshop on livelihoods approaches and analysis. Participants at this workshop are drawn from many parts of Yunnan Province and this, it is hoped, will provide a link to their work.

Livelihoods Frameworks and Approaches

The purpose of this session (introduced by Song Ha, with participants in the same groups) was to consider the kinds of information we need relating to people's livelihoods, and to discuss sustainable livelihoods frameworks and participatory livelihoods approaches. Song Ha explained that during the week we will have opportunities to discuss livelihoods terms which are new to many of us.

In the morning, each group discussed about the use of their knowledge to contribute to the lives of ethnic minorities and poor people in Yunnan Province. The last group already mentioned that these groups are facing a lot of difficulties in their lives. Every participant here is in government service and in every socialist country it is a duty to look after the livelihoods of the people. We would all agree that in order to make our interventions useful to (poor) people, we need to understand how they live. What we want to do in this session is to discuss this question:

What do we need to learn about to understand how people live?

Hong He Prefecture Border Counties

- Set up a plan of investigation.
- Become close with farmers and fishers (go deep into the community) to better understand the approaches of livelihoods and the sources of their economic resources (the way they can get an income), consider with them if there is any better approach.
- Understand what people need us to do, and what we can do for people's livelihoods.

Facilitator Comment

This helps us to understand what we need to do as we think about doing livelihoods analysis. You made reference to the resources that people have. Financial resources are mentioned (of course there are other kinds of resources that people use for their livelihoods). There is recognition in what you say about how people know what they need and about finding ways for this to be provided.

Hong He Prefecture Inner Counties

- Study and understand the methodology of investigation for livelihoods, and understand the source and approach of people's livelihoods, the family income, costs and expenditure patterns, i.e., how they earn money (for example, crop planting, animal husbandry, production industries) and the contribution of each to the overall income
- Understand the cost of education (for children), cost of production and other costs such as marriages and funerals
- Understand people's problems and methods to resolve these
- Speed up the opportunity for an improved life

Facilitator's Comment

This begins to put together financial, social and natural resources that people can use for their livelihoods, as well as human resources, such as the skills that people have, through education for example. The first group asked about getting people's own ideas about improving their lives and the second group explained this as "doing a problem census" with community members and then working together to improve people's lives.

Kunming, Wenshang and Chuxiong Prefectures

- The first step is to go to the countryside and study the patterns of life there.
- Many people have income from corn, rice, livestock and fisheries as well as other businesses.
- We need to help them with demonstrations of good examples of these options.
- Maybe we can help them with marketing.

Diqing, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna Prefectures

- To master the method of farmers and what they live from, e.g., fisheries, livestock crop planting, hunting and collecting, for example, mushrooms
- Through the poverty policy of the government to increase the income of the farmer
- Through developing and changing the production methods to increase the income of the farmer
- Through investigation and study to reach the purpose mentioned above.

Together all four groups have helped us to begin to see a framework for understanding livelihoods. We will be looking at this in more detail tomorrow morning. So far we can see that this framework has different kinds of resources in it: human, social, natural, physical and financial. We also see that there are influences that affect people's lives and there are vulnerabilities or risks that people and communities face. Given all the resources, influences and risks, people have strategies to carry out their lives and derive their livelihoods. This basically describes a livelihoods framework.

In closing for today can we think about these questions?

If somebody came to study our own livelihoods, what would they find out about us? In other words, we are talking about the livelihoods of fisher or farmers but what if someone came to study our livelihoods as government officials?

What resources do we have: human, social, natural, physical and financial? For example, a human resource might be our own educational background. A social resource might be our family structure or our belonging to different groups within the community. A natural resource might be clean water to drink. A physical resource might be the house we live in or the car or motorbike that we drive. A financial resource for a government employee might be a regular monthly income.

Facilitator's Comment

The important point was made about the necessity of getting first-hand information from farmers and fishers themselves, and following up as a government department to support their livelihoods. It was also pointed out that people are not only accessing aquatic resources, but they have quite complex livelihoods and patterns of resource use. We know in every country, when a fisheries person goes to a village they want to talk about fish, and when an agriculture person goes they want to talk about crops, when the health worker goes they want to talk about sickness, an education person will talk about the school, and so on. But in communities we are not divided in this way; all these things play a part in our lives.

Facilitator's Comment

This group's response also helps us to begin to understand the components of a livelihoods framework. This group has reminded us of the difficulty of working with diversity. There is a lot of pride in the diversity within Yunnan Province but diversity is of course difficult to work with and requires much more understanding and flexibility. We know from experience that taking a livelihoods approach allows us to better develop approaches within a community. This group also introduced another kind of resource, a community's spiritual practice, and also the effect that institutions have on people's livelihoods, for example, government departments. We might extend that to think about the effect that government policies have on people's livelihoods. This group also introduced us to another issue: people's vulnerabilities, the risks they face (like under-employment and the economic situation).

We might also think about what influences our lives, like government policy, for example. We might also think about the risks or vulnerabilities that we face. Finally we might ask, what is our strategy for improving our livelihoods?

Day Two

Bill reviewed the first day of the workshop and gave an overview of the second day. He summarized the livelihoods framework that had emerged from the discussions of the previous day, and asked participants to provide specific examples of the categories (Figure 3).

Resources

Human: education level, health status, age, skills, gender

Social: family status, kinship, religions, political groups, production teams, relationships with enterprises

Natural: land, mountains, forest, geographical location, climate, minerals, fauna, flora

Physical: houses, roads, vehicles, irrigation facilities, communications facilities, electricity, public transport, production tools

Financial: wages, salaries, credit, savings, aid, donations

Influences

Policies, regulations, wars, political regimes, tradition and custom, public security, political stability, markets

Vulnerabilities

Natural hazards, disasters, wars, epidemic outbreaks, (dis)honesty, market risks

Figure 3 Emerging Livelihoods Framework

Livelihoods Analysis - Process, Practices and Studies

Bill guided the participants through each section of the Saob Leu livelihoods study carried out in Cambodia, which each participant had before them already translated into Chinese. It was highlighted that the purpose of the workshop and the field visit was not to produce a study report like this one. It took two weeks of work in the village to produce and several months of analysis to produce the report.

It was highlighted that we want to meet with villagers with a livelihoods framework in mind - such as the one we brainstormed this morning - and try out some of the tools we have been learning about. The follow-up to this workshop and the longer term relationship with NACA-STREAM will lead to capacity-building with the Yunnan Department of Agriculture to work in this way. Yesterday Director Zhang said we are here to learn about and get a taste of each others' ways of working.

There was then a briefing for the field visit during which participants would try out some of the livelihoods analysis tools. The community visit was to be to Qiang Hu village in the high mountain area of Yuan Yang County, where the participants would be using some of

the livelihoods analysis tools in discussions with members of the Ha Ni ethnic group (see Box 2). 'Ha Ni' (known as Akha in Lao and Thailand) is a Chinese classification for an ethnic group of about two million people, with large migrations into Myanmar, Lao and Thailand. This is 170 km (about 3.5 hours' drive) from Mengzi and a place where communities have been raising rice and fish in high mountain terraces (between 300 and 1,400 m) for 3,000 years. The area is poor and receives government support since it is a border area and has a poor population dominated by the Ha Ni people. Arrangements were made for participants to see the rice terraces and then spend several hours working in groups with women, men and older community members. Although it was expected that some plans would need to change depending on the circumstances of our visit (so we would each need to be flexible).

Preparations for the visit would include transport logistics for 30 people, and arrangements for group discussions. Everyone considered over lunch which groups they would work with and to begin to think of the way that they would approach this visit. The following session would be for preparing for the community visit tomorrow.

Box 2

The Ha Ni Ethnic Group

The Ha Ni ethnic group is believed to originate from South China or Tibet. Linguistically they belong to the Tibeto-Burman group and they are related to the Lolo tribes of Yunnan (in southern China). The Akha tribe in northern Burma, northwest Laos and northern Thailand are similar to the Ha Ni. However, the groups that have migrated south have tended to engage in shifting cultivation whereas the Ha Ni had abandoned this form of farming for more settled agriculture practices by the time of the Tang Dynasty over half a century ago. There are around two million Ha Ni people, who live in villages of characteristic mushroom-shaped housing in upland areas. Many grow wet rice in high mountain terraces, some of which are believed to be around 3,000 years old. To maintain the integrity of the terraces, they are kept full of water even when they are not planted to rice. Fish is sometimes cultured in the water. The capacity of a family to produce fish and rice is highly respected and families compete to provide these at Ha Ni festivals. Ha Ni people living in high mountain areas are considered to be poor. The annual income of some villagers appears to be in the region of US\$ 75/year.



Livelihoods Analysis Tools

Participants each had a copy of a guide describing eleven tools commonly used in livelihoods analysis, of which Song Ha described four. He began by highlighting the strong similarities between the framework developed by our Cambodian colleagues and the framework that the group had already developed here. The framework gives a good vision of the livelihoods of a village. Of course in different geographic regions, issues and people are different. To understand the life of farmers and fishers we can use various tools as described in the Chinese version of the guide.

The first tool is a map, sometimes drawn to describe physical resources as a ‘resource map’ or social resources as a ‘social map’. These are often used to map resources close to where people live or to describe social differences. In the livelihoods study report, there is an example of the vertical cross-section of resources done as a transect walk in a village in Cambodia. More typically the resource map (e.g., on page 19 of the guide) shows the land resources and (on page 14 of the guide) there is a map which shows social resources. Such a map could be drawn from our own experience.

The second tool is a historical timetable which shows changes over time related to social and natural resources, influences and vulnerabilities.

The third tool is the Venn diagram. Like the other tools this can be drawn by different groups (such as men or women, older people or young ones), sometimes with interesting different results. The Venn diagrams in the report you have in Chinese represent institutions that influence the community. Some Venn diagrams can describe social or financial resources. The more influence any element has, the closer to the center of the diagram it will be depicted. Some diagrams use connecting lines with thicker lines representing closer links. Sometimes colors are used to classify elements of the Venn diagram such as different types of institutions. Some studies use Venn diagrams to represent risk and vulnerability.

The fourth tool is a seasonal calendar (tool number 7 in the guide with an example on pages 27-28 of the Chinese version of the livelihoods study). The months run across the top and activities down the side. The number of symbols (often stones or handy articles available to those in villages that are creating such diagrams) in any month reflect the intensity of activity recorded or reported for that month. Such calendars can be used for all kinds of farming, fishing and livelihoods activities.

The tools have common characteristics and all have been used effectively in countries neighboring China. Each can be carried out in participation with groups of people in villages. There are some ‘tips’ that we offer from our experience. For example, small groups of 5-6 have worked well in Vietnam. Facilitators, using such tools, can easily explain the nature of the tools and their purpose at the outset and then raise “open questions” (i.e., those which don’t have a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer, those which draw information other than that framed in the question) sometimes in the form of a focus group discussion. If one person answers such questions, their answers may not be representative of a larger group, so the more people we ask, the closer we may come to understanding the views of a group. In any group, there will be those with less-heard voices and people facilitating such sessions can make efforts to hear the voices of all those present. This might also be taken into account in the local context at the outset when arranging groups. In some circumstances separate groupings of men and women, or village leaders and others, may offer everyone opportunities to contribute. It is possible to create friendly and congenial atmospheres for meetings and flexibility is an important guiding principle in the use of these kinds of tools. Each of the tools has advantages and disadvantages and offers the opportunity to understand about different parts of the livelihoods framework we have brainstormed. Therefore it is useful to use the tools in combination. Tomorrow during the field visit it may be possible to try out some of the tools described here, which might be useful in your future work.

Following the presentation there were two questions:

In the seasonal calendar some of the symbols are different; what does this mean?

People can use different symbols to categorize different types of activities to make the diagram as clear as possible. When the tool is used with a community a certain outcome can be reported and the analysts can further code the diagram to make it clearer.

The Venn diagram (of male villagers) has a lot of cattle, but the vet is not important, why is that?

The size of the shape indicates importance. But it is not the same as being close to the community. In the example, the vet is considered important but is not available close to the community. This is a good example of analysis which can identify that a change is needed, i.e., perhaps more accessible veterinary services would be appropriate. When there are many institutions and they are all important, then Venn Diagrams can become crowded, so they can be split into, say, farming, fishing, health and education, with separate diagrams to show relationships more clearly.

Planning for the Community Visit

The meeting then discussed how we would form into groups for the next day's community visit (Figures 4 and 5). Bill highlighted that there will be opportunities to speak with men, women, children and older people, so we need to think how we could divide into four or five different groups with each meeting with a different group in the village. Then each group could try out some tools, depending on what they feel comfortable with in the village. Perhaps each group could start with a different tool to ensure we have the opportunity to feed back our experience of all four tools to each other. The selected tools which are easier to use - and well represent tools used in



Figure 4 Signing Up for Groups



Figure 5 The Four Tool Groups

livelihoods analysis - are (from the Chinese version of the tools guide): Tool 1 Resource Map, Tool 2 Historical Timeline, Tool 6 Venn Diagram, and Tool 7 Seasonal Calendar.

Participants then discussed which tools they would like to use and how to organize themselves. Bill highlighted that the complete description and procedure to start off using each tool could be found in the guide. The self-selected groups then planned their approach for the following day.

Day Three

Community Visit

The village of Jinfuzhuangxiaozhai is in Shengcun Township in the high mountain area of Tian Yang County and is home to the Ha Ni ethnic group. During the community visit (Figure 6), workshop participants worked in their groups, on a rainy morning meeting with villagers in four separate houses. The informants from the community joined with us using resource maps, timelines, seasonal calendars and Venn diagrams.

We left Mengzi at 8:00 am and arrived in the village at around 14:30, when we met the community. The discussions and activities lasted for two and a half hours, during which time the teams worked with the community members.



Ha Ni woman weaving in her 'mushroom' house



Catching carp in the high rice terraces



Discussion group



Leaving Jinfuzhuangxiaozhai Village

Figure 6 Images from Jinfuzhuangxiaozhai Village, Shengcun Township, Tien Yang County

Day Four

Community Visit Reportbacks

Each group presented their findings back to the whole group.

Resource Mapping Group

The group produced, with the villagers, resource maps (Figure 7), with livelihoods features as listed below.

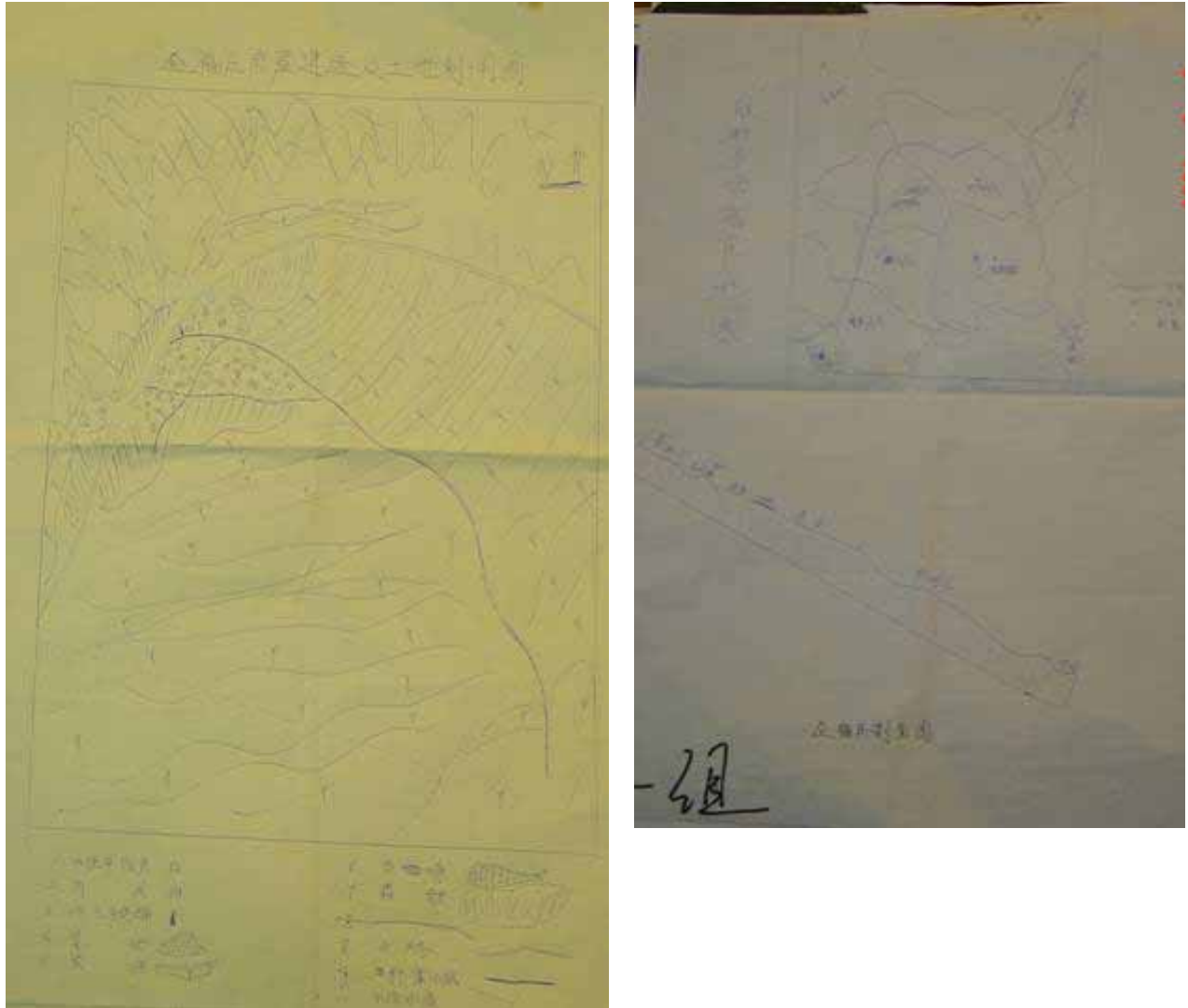


Figure 7 Resource Maps

Resources

- Natural: paddy field, sloping land, terraced field view, forest
- Physical: national highway, water, electricity, communication, tea hills, tractor, clinic, shops
- Human: village leaders, nurses, driving skills, labor
- Financial: selling labor, fish culture, livestock, poultry raising, tea
- Social: policies, security, honesty, harmony and unity

Facilitator Comment

This is the first tool giving us an overall picture of location and people's situation. It is interesting to link a livelihoods framework and resource mapping tool in this way. You report talk of about 610 Yuan annual income; from our discussions also people said during interviews that their annual income was 600 Yuan. It's important to cross check information from different groups.

Influences: electricity price is high, primary school too far (time-consuming), difficult access to credit facilities

Vulnerabilities: disease outbreak in animals and crops

Issues and Solutions

- There are difficulties for school children to go out.
- They hope to have in-situ schools.
- They hope to have new species for forestation, e.g., caoguo.
- Develop aquaculture on paddy terraced fields, raising pigs, buffalos and goats

Historical Timeline Group

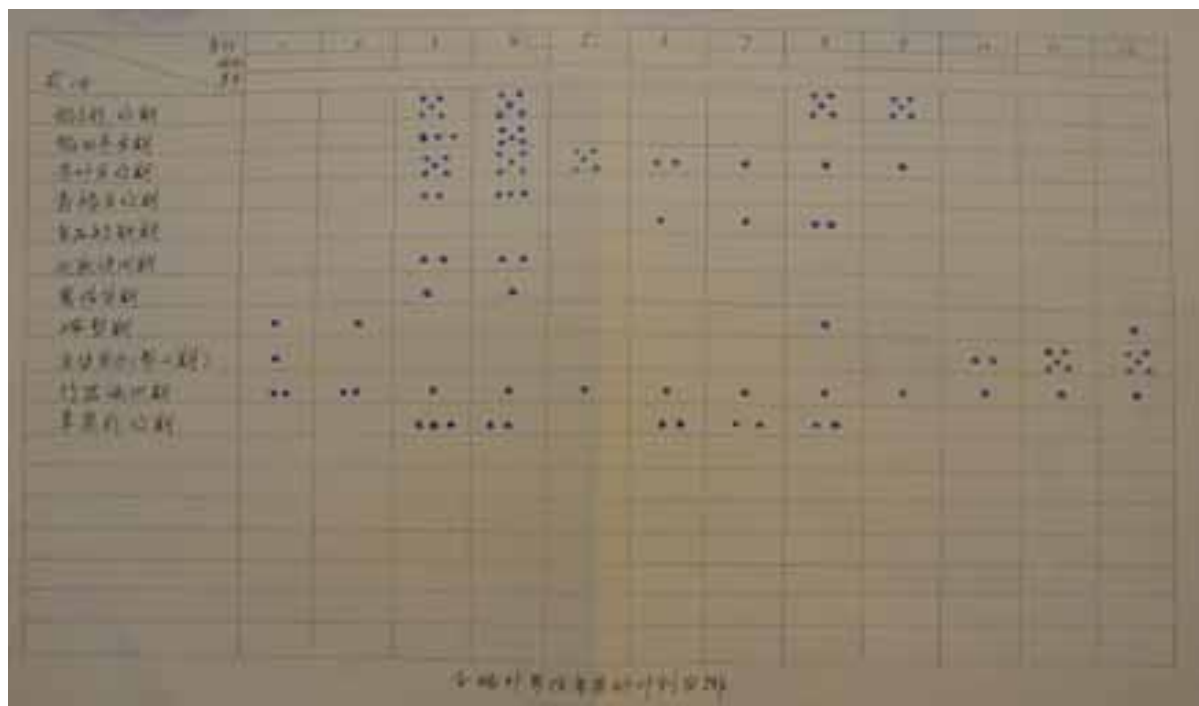
We invited five elderly men (70-77 years old) in the village to discuss. The village is located 30 km from the county town. According to legend, a young couple ran away after unfair treatment by the chief and settled in the place where the village is now.

In the 1950s the primary school was set up in the next village and people had to walk to get there. Several days' walk were spent to get daily needs like salt and needles. All houses were mushroom-shaped. The

village extended to 56 households and they planted rice and corn. Later the road was improved. After 1978 some families started to build new types of houses with tiles. The main economic income is from chickens, pigs and aquaculture. To work as a laborer in the town is another source of income. A few years ago, with people from outside, the villages tried to produce biogas from pig and chicken waste and piped this to houses for cooking.

Facilitator Comment

We can begin to see overlapping information from the first tool to the second. This cross-checking is good. Time was short, so these are highlights. With more time we would be able to get more details of the history of the village. Starting with a legend told by elderly people was interesting. We would surely hear many more legends and stories if we spent more time. On Monday we discussed the spiritual resources of the community. Director Zhang said this community is materially poor but spiritually rich, and therefore we have to understand their spiritual lives as well as their material lives, including through stories and legends. Song Ha and Xiaowei also wrote down notes from our discussions with the elderly village women and the village head. For example, Xiaowei, Bill, Song Ha and Graham also saw biogas in one of the 'mushroom' houses but the system was said to not be productive in cool weather as the village is in an upland area.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rice harvest			xxx xx	xxx xx				xxx xx	xxx xx			
Fish culture in rice			xxx xx	xxx xx					x			
Tea harvest			xxx xx	xxx xx	xxx xx	xx	x	x				
Tip of tree used as vegetable			xx	xxx								
Lack of food						x	x	xx				
Use of chemical fertilizer			xx	xx								
Borrowing money			x	x								
Weddings	x	x						x				x
Laboring in the city	x									xx	xxx xx	xxx xx
Weaving bamboo	xx	xx	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Caoguo (a kind of spice) collection			xxx	xx		xx	xx	xx				

Figure 10 Men's Seasonal Calendar



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rice harvest			xxx xx	xxx xx				xxx xx	xxx xx			
Fish culture in rice			xxx	xxx xx								
Tea harvest			xxx xx	xxx xx	xxx xx	xxx	xx	xx	x			
Tip of tree used as vegetable			xxx	xxx								
Lack of food						x	x	xx				
Use of chemical fertilizer			xx	xx								
Borrowing money			xx	x				x				
Weddings	xxx	xx										xx
Laboring in the city	x									xx	xxx xx	xxx xx
Weaving clothes	x	xx	x	x	x	x	x	x		xx	xxx xx	xxx xx
Culturing tea			xxx	xxx		xx	xxx	xxx				

Figure 11 Women's Seasonal Calendar

In addition to the group interviews, Song Ha, Bill, Xiaowei, Zhang Zhiyong and Graham discussed with the village head, the head of the township and the head of the local fisheries station. The following picture emerged from these discussions.

Resources

Human: The village comprises 84 households and 466 people. Children are commonly educated up to the end of secondary school. This is not an exceptional picture, because the overall proportion of high school students is only 15% for the whole of Shengcun township.

Social: The village community is from the Ha Ni ethnic group. There is a health station in the township, managed by two nurses who graduated from the local health care high school. At the same time there are many traditional healers. In two once-yearly traditional festivals, families compete informally to provide home-grown produce, especially rice and fish from the high rice terraces. It is considered virtuous to be able to do this.

Natural: Agro-products are mainly consumed within the family, and only a small surplus is sold for cash income. The steep hills are planted with characteristic terraced paddy fields. Water is plentiful and clear, thanks to thick coverage of nearby upland forest. The temperature is rather low, so biogas production is insufficient in the cold seasons. Land is allocated on a household basis with each family given a plot of paddy land and some hilly area for upland crop.

Physical: Jinfuzhuangxiaozhai Village in Shengcun Township, Yuanyang County, is 170 km from Mengzi. Some families keep using their mushroom-shaped houses, which have been built for 60-70 years; others have now built houses with concrete. Farming land is rather steep. Three years ago, Changning District of Shanghai donated money to upgrade some of the infrastructure for the village (village roads, water) and introduced to them the biogas facilities using pig dung.

Financial: Per capita income is commonly a little more or less 600 yuan/year, which is below China's poverty line. Livelihoods mainly depend on rice cultivation, upland crops and livestock (chicken, buffalo, pig, fish). The community sometimes gets donations from better-off farmer groups in other provinces and government subsidies.

Influences

Some key aquaculture influences include seed supply and the government policy on subsidy. The village and township headmen said there are two sources of fish seed: from middle men and from the fisheries station. The government provides support for aquaculture in terms of a 50% subsidy. Public security is good. Village and township headmen are responsible, although the village is not considered an official administrative unit of government. Village headmen are elected every three years by hand-polling.

Lessons Learned from the Community Visit

Bill introduced a session to look at the lessons learnt. Participants were asked to respond to the question: How could you improve what you did?

Resource Mapping Group

This was a good method which can cover a lot of information. What we did was try to find out other things than just physical resources, like human resources. It was easy to collect information and the tool helped to get more complete information about the village. The time was short. We were able to listen to people but we would like also to go to the field to see what people are referring to.

If we do this kind of job we could use a good location map from the government as a starting point. These are available already and would make the job easier. Also the population survey would be a good document to have to supplement the information we would collect. Sometimes the villagers do not really know how big the forest, housing and rice field areas that they have are, but such information is already with the government.

Facilitator Comment

Thank you for the excellent reflections and suggestions. It is important to use secondary data as a background when you go into the village. Yesterday you drew a map sitting in a house, but of course with more time you would then take that map and walk through the location so that you would get a better picture.

If different groups of people use different areas or quantities to the official figures, this is of interest. Official figures may not be more accurate than local knowledge. The village leader yesterday made reference to the fact that the official figures for rice terraces are lower than in reality. So we need a balance of understanding between official realities, local realities and reality. These discrepancies are common in all countries.

Historical Timeline Group

After the survey we found a few problems that could be avoided later. The number of interviewees could be increased to get a truer picture. Some people have different concepts of who is poor and who is well-off. To do a good job would of course take more time. Equipment like a digital camera or video camera would be helpful. It would be possible if the time was longer to ask more detailed questions and understand more. They found already that the conservation of water in this village was important and this already gives us some guidance for the direction of our future support to this village.

Facilitator Comment

Thank you for your excellent suggestions. It is important to be aware of the number and 'representativeness' of the people we interview. It is also correct to be aware of people's probable reasons for saying that they are poor or not. One of the stories that we were told yesterday was about a big festival held each year involving fish and rice. There is an unspoken competition whereby families that can not produce good quantities of fish and rice from the terraces are seen in a different light to those who can produce a lot. The village that we visited is obviously enthusiastic about rice-fish culture, but we were told about other villages where only a few villagers do this. The outcome of this livelihoods experience already tells us that here is a group of villagers that really wants to increase their understanding and take up improvements in their rice-fish culture.

A possible intervention by the fisheries department was mentioned to us yesterday, related to improving fish seed supply, which is a current constraint on the use of the rice terraces.

Venn Diagram Group

Taking the survey experience yesterday, the reportback and the comments this morning some things are clearly lacking. We can classify these into two. First, we feel from our side we were not really well prepared. For example, we do not know the factors which have influenced the village women to whom we spoke. Also the way we have asked the questions was perhaps too narrow. Then, when we asked the questions, we used official language and terminology that was difficult for the farmers to understand. There are some skills or techniques that are required by farmers, which we did not ask about because we are new to this work.

Facilitator Comment

I really like the way you talked about the correct entry point. What is the right way to go in? Who are the right people to go to? What are the right questions to ask? These are what I understand by the "right entry point". As the physicist Albert Einstein said, "To answer difficult questions is easy, but the difficulty is to ask the right questions." In other words, if we find the right question, the answer will come easily.

Another issue is that we do not understand their language, and they ours. Our interpreter was a man, and we were asking questions to women, so this may have impacted on the way the questions and answers were phrased. We should therefore take more time and should know more about the villager's background and culture, find a good entry point for our discussions, and create a friendly atmosphere.

Seasonal Calendar Group

We have found five areas that we would like to improve. We are new to this method so we will later have a clearer understanding of the tool. Our planning for the interview could be more complete. We would like to use a range of tools to get a more in-depth understanding, which would help us to understand the outcomes of the seasonal calendar. The resource map tool would work well with the seasonal calendar. There are some activities related to culture and these activities need to be understood too. We do not have a good understanding of the subject of our interview, because the farmers we talked to were arranged by the village head in advance. If we went and spoke to farmers at random this could be more representative.

Facilitator Comment

It was interesting that you said you don't have a clear idea about the approach because your reflections and those of the other groups suggest we have a number of emerging "livelihoods analysis experts" in the room. All groups have been extremely insightful into the approach and how it went. Since we cannot genuinely criticize something we don't understand, this suggests there is already considerable understanding now.

Do you feel that you have a more clear idea now, than you had three or four days ago? A resounding "YES!"

Someone said if we had done the resource mapping first, the seasonal calendar could have been used in a better way. Of course when we do a livelihood analysis that is exactly what happens, we plan, and one tool and the results are used as building blocks for the next, moving towards a complete picture.

In keeping with the Director's comments, about what we think the livelihoods approach might bring to the work of the department, after the break we would like to ask each of you to tell us your thoughts on this.

To improve, we believe we could make use of equipment as the first group had also felt. A camera would supplement the outcome of our discussions with a visible record. What we have tried so far is still shallow. We should gain a complete understanding of the resources, understand all about the livelihoods, and make the information available to relevant authorities. For example, we found that villagers have difficulty sending their children to school.

Reflections on Livelihoods Analysis

In the final session of Day Four, participants were asked individually (around the table) to reflect on their week's experience and provide their own feedback to the group.

Mr Li Jianlin: For the first two days I was less involved. Some of the concepts are used already, but not in this way. I notice that in the translation of the Cambodian livelihoods report (translated and provided as an example), the resource mapping doesn't include a representation of population age structure. It is difficult to include other things too in this kind of report, such as invisible resources like the beauty of Shangri-La. Perhaps there could also be reflection in the report about assistance required and where this might come from.

Mr Yang Zichen: Thanks to the external resource persons. The tools and the livelihoods framework can provide good guidelines for people working directly with communities. This would provide a good background for developing project proposals for working in rural areas.

Mr Yu Zhengbin: It is a good method to have a better understanding about the resources of a community.

Mr Zhu Jianguo: I used to work in banana culture and joined fisheries recently. I do not have specific ideas, but find the methodology interesting for looking at the living and activities of communities, and it is definitely useful to my work.

Mr Bai Abao: In the future, to develop this, from my point of view, before developing a project for fisheries or aquaculture we should look at the overall community resources and take aquaculture as an integral part of the overall development. The strategy should look at natural and human resources, and compare if these can match together. If they do not, we could have a special extension program to develop human resources in tune with the natural resources. For example, in the village we visited yesterday, the land area is limited and there is under-employment, so people sell their labor outside. It is therefore definitely important to seek ways to develop skills with laborers.

Ms Huang Ying: I am not regularly part of the workshop, but am arranging the logistics, but I have become interested in the method to study the rural situation, which is meaningful.

Mr Zhang Chengbin: Thanks to STREAM and the resource persons for bringing this useful study. Some of these kinds of methods have been used by us before, but not in a systematic way. So we find the tools easy to use and understand and the framework concept is useful. We have been introduced to these, but how to analyze the results and the implications? Perhaps, we will need more training from STREAM in the future. As a fisheries officer I would like to share information with others on resource management and conservation to help local people to develop their economy.

Mr Yang Lihong: It's good that after two days of lectures and yesterday's field trip we have already mastered the basic methodology of the livelihoods study. We really appreciate the exposure to this methodology so that government assistance can be based on the real situation in the countryside.

Mr Wang Shijie: Before when we provided assistance to farmers we would just listen to their requests. This framework and tools gives us (and them) a method to understand their

real situation. It will take time to make use of these tools part of the routine work of the government.

Mr Chen Gang: I am happy to be introduced to the livelihoods framework and the tools for livelihoods study, which we tried yesterday. We are also using some kind of methodologies in collecting information and studying the situation in rural communities but this is not systematic, and this training gives us a good tool for this work in the future, and we may also modify this in our work in different counties. Usually, we have each year some extension projects to aid farming communities and a better understanding will help us to spend our money and our efforts in the right place. As one working in Yuan Yang please let me invite your STREAM colleagues to also meet the Ha Ni people.

Mr Wang Gang: After these three days, my understanding is that we need to know our targets better. There are some people we need to help, so we need to first understand them better. The important thing is to really understand their difficulties and the problems they are having. It seems necessary for people like me working as an extension officer to master these tools.

Mr Zong Zuguo: Thank you, I am happy to be attending, but yesterday I did not go on the visit. I have been working with the government for many years and have been working with surveys in the field. I find this is a systematically arranged method. It is useful to make use of the tools and concept.

Mr Qi Wenlong: Thanks to STREAM, as well as the Department of Agriculture for selecting us to participate, and thanks to the external speakers for bringing these tools for livelihoods study. These help us to understand the situation, and also to understand the priority needs for development. I come from Xishuangbanna where the aquatic resources are rich. We have not done systematic analysis like this, and hope we can incorporate this into our work. Because of our special local conditions we have a lot of aquatic resources to manage and control. In Mong La County, in our prefecture, we introduced a special system for aquatic resources management in open waters, which has benefited more than 52,000 people. We have introduced some regulated fishing activities by local people along the river, and have developed sport fishing, with an income of 1.2 million Yuan. We will try to make use of the livelihoods study to support the use of aquatic resources and to manage these in a sustainable way.

Mr Wu Yufu: I am happy to come here to learn about the livelihoods framework and to learn the study tools. Before, our survey method was based on the objectives of the agency that decided what we need to know about the local community. These tools give us the opportunity to understand the real situation. We hope we can make use of these tools and have more opportunities to learn about these methods and share experiences.

Mr Li Zhengguang: I would like to thank the Provincial Department for including Lijjiang Prefecture. Before, I have done some rural livelihoods surveys, but now I realize what we have done was shallow, and not organized. There are a lot of things to be improved, e.g., the indicators and parameters, and the information we collect needs to be further expanded. Our rural area is poor and making use of livelihoods analysis, we would like to draw some international attention to help our people. I would like to invite our colleagues and friends to visit Lijjiang.

Mr Cao Shouqing: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to become exposed to STREAM and the livelihoods concept, which can serve to guide our work in rural communities. In China we have a saying that “rural areas, agriculture and farmers are our development priority” so livelihoods analysis is extremely relevant.

Ms Shi Yun: Thank you to STREAM. I am happy to learn the new systematic concepts for rural study and hope these can be utilized in my work. We would like to have more chances to be involved in the kind of workshop.

Ms Feng Gui Fang: I have been helping with the logistics and hotel arrangements. Under Hong He Prefecture there are 13 county-level cities and some studies have been undertaken, but so far only in a shallow way. The workshop and field trip has provided themes which were easy to follow. In the context of Hong He, this methodology should be extended to all the other counties “like adding a pair of wings to a tiger”.

Mr Wang Xiong Jian: I am a new fisheries graduate and happy to learn these new techniques, which will be helpful to my work in the future; the method is good for objective appraisal.

Mr Zhu Ziren: Thanks to STREAM. Now I have a rough idea of NACA, and STREAM attached to NACA. We know that NACA and STREAM are operating internationally and are happy from the Yunnan side that this learning is made available from the STREAM Initiative. In China, we should use the livelihoods framework and analysis to have a holistic approach. Right now our fisheries contribution to agriculture is about 5%. Before, our main target was to increase the share of fish in the overall income of the farmers. Now after this workshop, we understand that a ‘livelihood’ is a whole thing and we need to look at things in a different way, not just from the perspective of fisheries. The approach is systematic and this was previously neglected. Our method has been broken into pieces and scattered here and there and we could not “see the wood for the trees”.

I have two suggestions, as a local organizer, I did not have a good understanding before the field trip was arranged, so would like to have more exposure, so as to be able to organize survey groups better. Our plans [for the field trip] were affected by road problems (rock falls and land slips, due to unseasonally heavy rain in southern China) yesterday, and we might have arranged a visit in a nearer place. This workshop focused on the livelihoods approach and analysis, but perhaps we could also learn in future about formulating action plans to help rural communities.

Ms You Meiju: Thanks to the province and to STREAM. In my place, I am in charge of fisheries extension and involved with the rural economy, so I have some experience in rural surveys, but am extremely glad to learn this approach so as to have a holistic approach in the future.

Mr Li Zhengtang: In the beginning, I was quite confused about the livelihoods approach and analysis. I am happy now that I know the meaning of these words, and the basic methods and their use. I am happy to equip myself with these tools for my future work.

Mr Wang Jiangwei: I have learnt a lot from this workshop and my understanding about livelihoods is more complete. I have learnt useful tools for livelihood analysis. If we make use of this method in surveys, this could provide a basis for government agencies to do better planning, to help the agencies to do better for local communities. We hope that our county will be part of a network for information and experience sharing, and we will look into the possibility for different types of assistance.

Mr Fu Guohong: My county shares a common border with Lao Cai Province in Vietnam. I have gained a lot from this workshop. I have learnt about 11 tools to understand livelihoods situations. If I use these in my work I have a “fly-off point”. These tools also provide guidance for better dealing with rural communities to provide better information for preparation of our project proposals. Thank you to Mr Zhang and the external speakers.

Mr Liang Qiang: We are happy and although we were only been dealing with four of the 11 tools, I spent time with the others in the tool-kit provided to us in Chinese by STREAM and I agree the four we have used are the most important. The 11 tools form a whole thing, but each tool can be used alone also. The 11 tools are available to use in one's and two's depending on our study. I would like to say thank you to STREAM and NACA.

Mr Lu Yufa: We are happy that Yunnan is a part of the STREAM Initiative. I would like to thank my colleagues in Hong He Prefecture for arrangements, care and well-being. I feel I have a good understanding, after this workshop, of the methods to use to get first-hand information from a rural community. I think this workshop as a whole is helping the Yunnan Fisheries Department a lot. After the workshop we have a good understanding of the livelihoods framework and the necessary tools for livelihoods study. In our Yunnan situation, maybe for the studies of rural communities, I would like to suggest that the market is important to our farmers. I come from Qujing and we would like to be part of a network for sharing information, and we will use fisheries as an entry point to help rural communities upgrade their living standards. We welcome other colleagues as well as the external speakers to work in Qujing and give us further guidance.

Mr Fong Hailin: I have four points to make. I used to think about livelihood in a narrow way and now my thinking is much broader and more comprehensive. Together with the tools, I have a better understanding and capacity to understand the rural situation. We just learnt as students the natural sciences, but this holistic approach also incorporates social science, which is good and will help me to work better in rural areas. In future, I will purposely look into the livelihoods framework concept and prepare myself to do things. It's a foreign experience to be utilized for Chinese conditions [this last comment was a rather cleverly intended and well constructed double meaning, which was much appreciated by the plenary]. I look forward to be part of this network and share experiences with others.

Mr Liu Guangxing: I come from Menghai County and now have an entirely new concept for livelihoods analysis there. This gives us a basic background to go back and work in this way in our place. We hope that the STREAM Initiative will help us to follow up with actions and that we will carry out a lot of activities after this workshop.

Ms Deng Xiu Mei: Normally, when just talking to people the understanding of a village [by outsiders] will be shallow, but with these tools it will be much broader and complete.

Ms Li Janghong: This is helpful and useful for rural area survey.

Mr Dai Binglin: I am from the fisheries station of Mengzi. I have learnt a lot about the way to understand rural situations. As a government officer, my own capacity has been upgraded and my views are widened. We hope that through this livelihoods analysis approach we will have a better understanding of rural situations and will be able to try to bring in aid and support from wider sources. One thing is regrettable: that we would have a better interaction with the external speakers if we could speak English (or if they spoke Chinese!). Thank you to STREAM and we wish you good health.

Mr Zhang Zhiyong: I share the same feeling with my colleagues. After the three days of lectures and discussions and field visit, we made use of the concept and tools to look at the situation in the village. Compared with a series of different types of methods we used to use, the tools now introduced are more complete and systematic. I would say that through the livelihoods approach and analysis we would have a better understanding, and could better formulate programs to help poor people living in rural areas. This is good training for our fisheries staff in the province. It will give us the opportunity to prepare

ourselves to deal with rural poor communities better and more efficiently. The workshop also makes us feel more responsibility to help our rural poor people. Definitely, we often have to conduct feasibility studies in grassroots situations and conduct evaluations. These methods will help us to do that kind of job much better and give us the chance to develop farmer-centered projects in the future. The farmer-centered project proposals would allow policy-makers to understand the real situation better. We look forward to having stronger support in terms of policy and financial support. The final goal is to help rural poor people to have more income and upgrade their situation and quality of life, and this is also the purpose of having this workshop here in Yunnan. Finally, I would like to say thank you to the NACA-STREAM team at this workshop.

Facilitator Comment

We have one more half-day and some more to accomplish. Your statements are rich with ideas in how STREAM and NACA and the Yunnan Department of Agriculture Fisheries Division can follow up this workshop. So tomorrow morning we will spend the time thinking about this and identify how you can develop a network for information exchange. Finally, as a facilitator of workshops, it is always my desire to ensure that everyone in the room should have a chance to comment and share their views, and this afternoon we have accomplished that, and I thank you for that.

Day Five

Follow-on Discussion

The whole group reflected on their learning in the workshop and also discussed information sharing and communication mechanisms. A plan was discussed to develop an inter-prefecture platform for communications, following suggestions by each prefecture head of fisheries. Each prefecture will have a focal point (normally the head of fisheries) and a communication focal point, to be responsible for communication with the STREAM Communications Hub to be set up in Kunming. The discussions touched on five points:

- Is the platform or networking to be established in Yunnan the same as STREAM or is this to be separate?
- Which are the other member countries of STREAM? (Not all prefecture offices are so well equipped with communication facilities such as internet access.)
- This training has been useful and has widened the existing understanding of the rural situation by the government. There is a hope to extend this to other prefectures in Yunnan not represented here.
- If it is possible we would like to undertake a complete livelihoods analysis in a selected prefecture in Yunnan perhaps with help from STREAM.
- If possible can a selected person from Yunnan be exposed to other people from countries in STREAM?

The Director of Fisheries for Yunnan, Mr Zhang, made a number of formal requests and statements, as follows.

- The agreement with STREAM by the Provincial Department of Agriculture is signed with the Vice Director General, Mr Yang Zimin. It is agreed that the Communications Hub Manager and the STREAM Yunnan Coordinator will be the focal point, and the Fisheries Directors from the seven prefectures (attending the workshop) will be the prefecture focal points and the other attendees will become prefecture coordination points.
- The participants are asked to try to make use of the tools they have learnt to do a survey and each report on the livelihoods in their prefecture and send these to the Yunnan Communications Hub to be summarized and circulated in Yunnan and also to other countries.
- The Director and the Communications Hub Manager will select articles from the *STREAM Journal*, translate them and distribute these in Yunnan.
- Each of the participants is required to write a proposal to make use of better aquatic resources management to help rural people to increase their income and to present this to local government agencies, such as the local Department of Agriculture and the Office for Rural Poverty Reduction.
- Because you may have observed that rice-fish culture is playing a useful role in poverty alleviation, we would like to have an analysis of the contribution of this system to poverty alleviation.
- If possible could some simple equipment be made available?
- Because STREAM is now launched in Yunnan and this is the first batch of 'graduates' could we produce a certificate for the participants?

Response from STREAM

- Is the network for STREAM or an existing department network? STREAM's way of working is to work within existing systems so this is about strengthening existing mechanisms which can also be about and with STREAM activities.
- There is a different level of availability in different prefectures. Our goal in STREAM is to communicate creatively, by whatever means are available through the Communications Hub, e.g., by hard copy, by telephone.
- In terms of reaching other prefectures, we imagine that certain people in the group attending the workshop would form the core of a livelihoods training team, which with STREAM help could somewhere down the line share the livelihoods training in ways that the government sees fit.
- Also looking ahead to what might seem possible, the carrying out of a full livelihoods study should be within the scope of the work we would engage in together. Likewise the idea of exposure visits is something we could look at as maybe being possible in the future.
- One of the characteristics of STREAM that we have realized over the years is that the Regional Office is not the controller, but the Country Offices are more like that; they are more like independent members of a family.
- We have been encouraging the National Coordinators and Communications Hub Managers to be (as they are) autonomous in the direction in which they want their STREAM Country Office to take.
- Our 'older' STREAM countries are now seeking funding and support on their own rather than just through the STREAM Regional Office and have reached this maturity as offices in their own right. Of course, that is with the support of the STREAM Regional Office and the recognition that the STREAM Country Office is part of a bigger regional grouping.
- We also appreciate the suggestion about preparing certificates of attendance for the participants.
- Finally, Director Zhang mentioned contributions, and we are looking forward to an article from Mr Zhang of the situation here for our next edition of the *STREAM Journal*.
- On the approaches and tools, yesterday we heard the phrase "official survey" or 'questionnaire' that is a good source of quantitative information. In Vietnam, we also have done the same thing. Of course, to have a better set of information we should also use these in conjunction with qualitative information, which livelihoods analysis will give us. We can think about how to incorporate both sources of information in support of each other. For example, when there is a field visit for an official survey you might also use the tools used in this workshop.
- As Mr Zhang said, this is the beginning of our activities in Yunnan. One of the principles for STREAM work is about self-learning and I think you Chinese colleagues are well aware of this approach. In Vietnamese there is a proverb, from the Chinese, "everything is difficult from the beginning", but when we are here at the workshop we find we have cracked already the hard nut and it is not as difficult as we thought at

the beginning. So I believe in future there will be many more opportunities to be successful with these approaches and tools.

- From the STREAM perspective there is a lot of autonomy for STREAM Country Offices and also a number of things which we try to do collectively, or in the same way in each country, so that these things can be shared and referenced easily. In the first instance, the report of this workshop will be prepared in English, produced as hard copies, and also posted digitally (in English and eventually Chinese) on the STREAM website under the section for Yunnan Province in the STREAM Virtual Library at <http://www.streaminitiative.org/Library/VirtualLibrary.html> We have already agreed with Susan Li that she will translate the whole document into Chinese and take responsibility for sharing this with everyone.
- A common-format report that all STREAM Offices produced as a reference for their own strategic planning, and to share with other Hubs, is what we call the “Poverty and Aquatic Resources Review”. This is drawn from local experience and secondary sources (materials already produced), and built into a comprehensive picture to identify the nature and location of poverty and to describe how poor people manage aquatic resources within their livelihoods. The suggestions that Director Zhang has already made - about each participant writing a proposal about how to make better use of aquatic resources management to help rural poor people increase their income and to present this to local government agencies - will be a useful part of the process of producing the “Poverty and Aquatic Resources Review”. The Director’s own *STREAM Journal* submission will also contribute to this review, as well as other recent secondary materials about poverty incidence and distribution, and aquatic resources use in Yunnan which the STREAM Yunnan Office will need to collect and review.
- The Poverty and Aquatic Resources Review will in turn contribute to another publication common to all STREAM Communications Hubs, the “Country Strategy Paper” (CSP), in this case the Yunnan Province Strategy Paper. This will highlight, in relation to the work of others (which it would review briefly), what we can do together and where STREAM can add value to what is already underway. Also, where there is an international dimension to proposed activities, reference is made to existing CSPs, and links may be drawn to opportunities to look at issues common to more than one country (for which resources might be sought jointly). There is no fixed timeframe for this follow-on activity, which often takes between 6-9 months, and for which some STREAM support in the form of author contracts can be provided.

Closing Ceremony

Remarks were made to conclude the workshop:

Bill: As the facilitator, I would like to thank everyone for their participation and to congratulate and sincerely thank Mr Xiaowei for his contribution to the translation and the workshop.

Graham: I would like to thank everyone for an outstanding workshop and an interesting week. Specifically, I would like to thank Hong He Prefecture Government for hosting our workshop and Mr Li Baowen for opening it on Monday. Thanks to the Vice-Director General, Zhang Zimin, and Director Zhang Zhiyong for their interest in the proceedings and their support, and to Li Hong Yun (Susan Li) for the work involved with the pre-workshop organization and for translating on Monday.

I would especially like to thank Zhou Xiaowei and William Savage for co-facilitating the workshop, and successfully sharing some complicated concepts and Mr Song Ha for sharing his experiences from Vietnam and elsewhere. I would like to thank Wella, and also my colleague Reby from Bangkok, both from NACA, for their behind-the-scenes support with organization and planning, and Ms Fong Guifang for her logistics support in Kunming and Mengzi.

Thank you to Mr Zhu Ziren, Mr Li Jianlin and Mr Chen Gang, and to the Director and others (who I know traveled to the village in advance of our workshop to ensure smooth planning of the event), for their supreme efforts in planning and supporting the community visit, which was an outstanding success.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I would like to thank our colleagues from Hong He, Kunming, Wenshang, Chuxiang, Diqing, Lijang and Xishuangbanna prefectures for traveling with us and for participating so actively.

Director Zhang: On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries Division, I would like to thank STREAM for having this workshop in Hong He. We are impressed by the great efforts made by NACA-STREAM staff Graham, Bill, Song Ha, Xiaowei and Wella. All the participants from the prefectures have been exposed to new tools and procedures for survey and study, and this is perhaps the most important direct effect of this workshop, which will give us better capacity to help poor people by helping them to tell us the real situation and their real problems. According to my informal discussions with colleagues, we have a common feeling that the workshop started from a simple concept, then went into more complex processes. So it has been easy to follow. We hope that in our future study and work we can incorporate these methods into our work plans.

This is the first training workshop of this nature in Yunnan. We look forward to expand the coverage to other prefectures in Yunnan, and we look forward to working with STREAM. I thank my colleagues from other prefectures for working with us in the workshop; please make use of these concepts and tools when you go back to your respective places.

This is the first time for our Yunnan fisheries officers to have an exchange with overseas resource persons in livelihoods. In future, we will do this in respect of our local conditions in Yunnan. We look forward to attain support from donors through our work with and the association with the STREAM network. We hope to develop aquatic resources management to help poor people to get out of poverty.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in Hong He Prefecture for their logistical support.

Mr Li Jianlin: Dr Zhang, overseas colleagues and colleagues from other places, first, I would like to congratulate everyone on the conduct and conclusion of the workshop, in the prefecture of Hong He, in Yunnan. On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to say congratulations on the successful conclusion of the workshop. I would like to thank STREAM and Director Zhang for selecting Hong He for this training workshop. I would like to thank the people for coming from outside and I look forward to communicating with STREAM and other prefectures in the future.

I would like to apologize for some difficulties, for example, the time traveling on the field trip day. We realize the main problem was that it took too much time going to the village, which had not been expected due to the rain and landslides. Some colleagues were shivering from the cold, so I apologize for not being well prepared for that.

I would like to extend our invitation to all the colleagues and external resource persons. You are welcome to return to Yuan Yang, as during the field visit, the fog limited the view of the rice terraces. Actually, in Hong He we have a lot of cultural and natural beauty including the largest limestone cave and the second largest literature temple (like the one in Hanoi). Finally I wish all participants good health and a safe journey home.

Appendix 1 Program**DOA/NACA-STREAM/FAO Workshop on Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis
Mengzi, Yunnan, 6-10 September, 2004****Program (draft)**

Context

Organized by Department of Agriculture Kunming, the host partner of NACA⁵-STREAM's⁶ Yunnan Office, this workshop is an activity within an FAO⁷-funded Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) under the project entitled *Assistance in Poverty Alleviation through Improved Aquatic Resources Management in Asia-Pacific*. The FAO-TCP provides technical assistance to build national and regional capacity in livelihoods approaches and analysis - and to empower a wide range of stakeholders, including rural poor people, through strengthened learning and communications channels - to encourage, support and strengthen on-going aquatic resources management policy change processes in the region.

Purpose

The relevant FAO-TCP project output - and the purpose of this workshop - is to develop and document mechanisms for training in livelihoods approaches and analysis, and build national capacity.

Objectives

- Understand issues of interest to people whose livelihoods include aquatic resources management, especially those with limited resources
- Build “(provincial) livelihoods teams” to do livelihoods analyses and training, and share their experiences with communities and other stakeholders
- Share understandings of livelihoods approaches and analysis using participatory methods
- Review current NACA-STREAM livelihoods analysis documentation, adapt and supplement, towards the drafting of a *Guide for Livelihoods Analysis*
- Experience the use of participatory tools for livelihoods analysis⁸
- Plan activities for carrying out livelihoods analyses
- Consider how to build capacity in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and “significant change”

5 Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific

6 Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management

7 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

8 Workshop participants will spend a day with a community”.

Input

An important input to the workshop will be the learning and documentation which emerged from a “livelihoods workshop-series” in Cambodia and Vietnam, carried out in pre-STREAM 2001 by NACA with DFID⁹ support. Equally informative from these two countries’ experiences will be outcomes and outputs from livelihoods analyses carried out by NACA-STREAM host partners in 2001-02. (See Agenda Note 4 below for a list of these and other inputs to the workshop.)

Outputs

- A draft *Guide for Livelihoods Analysis*, which will be modified with learning through a series of FAO TCP Workshops on Livelihoods Approaches and Analysis in the Philippines, Yunnan, China; India (with Nepal); Lao PDR and Myanmar.
- Livelihoods analysis activity plans (drafts), and in Chinese: the Cambodian livelihoods tools document, the livelihoods study from Saob Leu and the STREAM Journal 1(4) from the STREAM livelihoods workshop in Vietnam, as well as the program

Outcome

Formation of groups of stakeholders [“(prefecture) livelihoods teams”] to look into poor peoples “livelihoods” as an integral and sustainable development approach. These individuals could support organizations and agencies interested in implementing a participatory livelihoods approach.

The core members of each group would be drawn from the workshop participants, while the whole groups would consist of representatives from:

- DOA/DOF (involved with), planning, extension, training and communication

⁹ Department for International Development, UK

Agenda

Day One - Monday, 6 September	
	Registration
	Welcoming Statements
	Introduction of Participants
	Experiences and Expectations
	Introduction to NACA-STREAM, FAO and DOA
	Livelihoods Frameworks and Approaches
Day Two - Tuesday, 7 September	
	Livelihoods Analysis - Processes, Practices and Studies
	Livelihoods Analysis Tools
	Planning for the Community Visit
Day Three - Wednesday, 8 September	
	Community Visit
Day Four - Thursday, 9 September	
	Community Visit Reportbacks [7]
	Lessons Learned from the Community Visit [7]
	Reflections on Livelihoods Analysis
Day Five - Friday, 10 September	
	Follow-on Discussion
	Response from STREAM
	Closing Ceremony

Appendix 2 Participants

1. Mr Bai Abao, Head of the Fisheries Station, Luchun County, Hong He Prefecture
2. Mr Cao Shouqing, Head of the Fisheries Station, Ninglang County , Lijiang Prefecture
3. Mr Chen Gang, Head of the Fisheries Station, Yuan Yang County, Hong He Prefecture
4. Mr Dai Binglin, Head of the Fisheries Station, Mengzi County, Hong He Prefecture
5. Mr Du Facheng, Head of the Fisheries Station, Chuxiong Prefecture
6. Dr Graham Haylor, STREAM Director, NACA Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand
7. Mr Fong Hailin, Head of the Fisheries Station, Luxi County, Hong He Prefecture
8. Mr Gu Linyou, Division Director, Poverty Alleviation Coordination Office, Yunnan Province
9. Mr Li Jianlin, Deputy Head of the Fisheries Station, Hong He Prefecture
10. Mr Li Zhengguang, Head of the Fisheries Station, Lijiang Prefecture
11. Mr Li Zhengtang, Head of the Fisheries Station, Mile County, Hong He Prefecture
12. Mr Liang Qiang, Fisheries Officer, Agriculture Department, Yunnan Province
13. Mr Liu Guangxing, Head of the Fisheries Station, Menghai County, Xishuangbanna Prefecture
14. Mr Lu Yufa, Head of the Fisheries Station, Qujing Prefecture
15. Mr Qi Wenlong, Head of the Fisheries Station, Xishuangbanna Prefecture
16. Mr Wang Gang, Head of the Fisheries Station, Jiangshui County, Hong He Prefecture
17. Mr Wang Jiangwei, Head of the Fisheries Station, Kaiyuan, Gejiu Prefecture
18. Mr William Savage, STREAM Communications Specialist, NACA Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand
19. Mr Wu Yufu, Officer of Agriculture Bureau, Diqing Prefecture
20. Mr Yang Zichen, Head of the Fisheries Station, Pingbian County, Hong He Prefecture
21. Mr Yu Zhengwu, Head of the Fisheries Station, Gejiu Prefecture
22. Mr Zhang Chengbin, Head of the Fisheries Station, Shiping County, Hong He Prefecture
23. Mr Zhang Zhiyong, STREAM Yunnan Coordinator, Agriculture Department, Kunming
24. Mr Zhou Xiaowei, Program and Operation Officer, NACA Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand
25. Mr Zhu Jianguo, Head of the Fisheries Station, Jingping County, Hong He Prefecture
26. Mr Zhu Ziren, Head of the Fisheries Station, Hong He Prefecture
27. Mr Zong Zuguo, Head of the Fisheries Station, Wenshang Prefecture
28. Mr Fu Guohong, Head of the Fisheries Station, Hekou County, Hong He Prefecture
29. Mr Yang Lihong, Head of the Fisheries Station, Hong He County, Hong He Prefecture
30. Ms Rouella Udomlarp, Senior Officer, NACA Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand
31. Ms Susan Li, STREAM Yunnan Communications Hub Manager, Agriculture Department, Kunming
32. Ms You Meiju, Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Station, Weixi County, Diqing Prefecture
33. Ms Zou Muying, Deputy Head of the Fisheries Station, Xishuangbanna Prefecture
34. Mr Nyugen Song Ha, Communications hub Manager, Hanoi, Vietnam