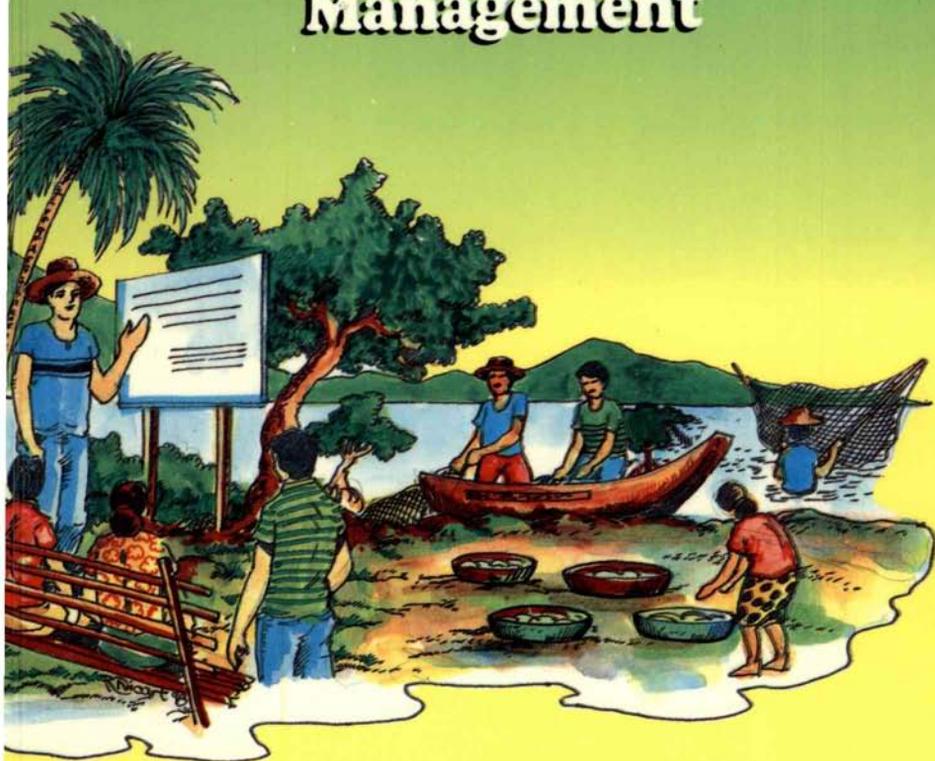


Volume 2

Tools and Methods



Participatory Methods in Community-based Coastal Resource Management

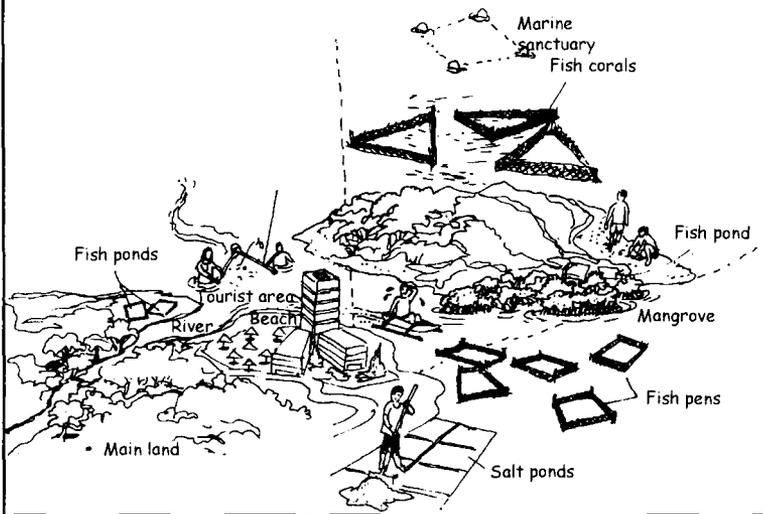


Participatory coastal zoning

Definition

This is a method of addressing conflicting interests among resource-users through the delineation of areas or zones for specific uses. The areas or zones are based on the features and importance of the ecosystems as well as the concerns and recommendations of different sectors affected by the zoning plan.

This approach is based on the experiences of a coastal community in Bolinao, Philippines, who, for the past two years, have been working towards zoning their municipal waters. As of this writing, they are currently negotiating with the municipal government and other resource-users for a common zoning plan.



Purpose

Coastal zoning allows different sectors who use the coastal area to reach a consensus on coastal use. It is a chance for dialogue and cooperation among fishing communities, business interests, non-government organizations (NGOs) and local government.

Requirements

A prerequisite for zoning is to have several well-organized contiguous coastal communities sharing a common resource (e.g., a bay or gulf) that are willing to work with each other in a lengthy process that requires patience and flexibility.

This exercise would be more effective if community-based organizations (CBOs) have working knowledge and skills in the following areas:

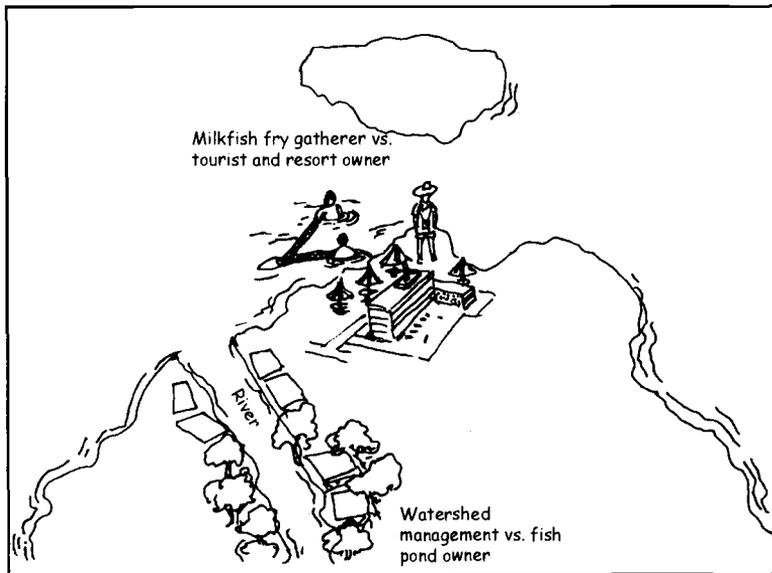
- ✓ basic marine ecology – to understand the local ecology and the impact that different resource uses have on it
- ✓ conflict management and resolution
- ✓ knowledge of local and national laws – to be aware of how zoning can be enforced
- ✓ leadership, negotiation and planning skills – to be able to work with various interest groups in reaching a zoning plan
- ✓ advocacy skills – to raise awareness about the zoning plan in the coastal community

- ✓ management, monitoring and evaluation skills – to implement the proposed zoning plan

Possible approach

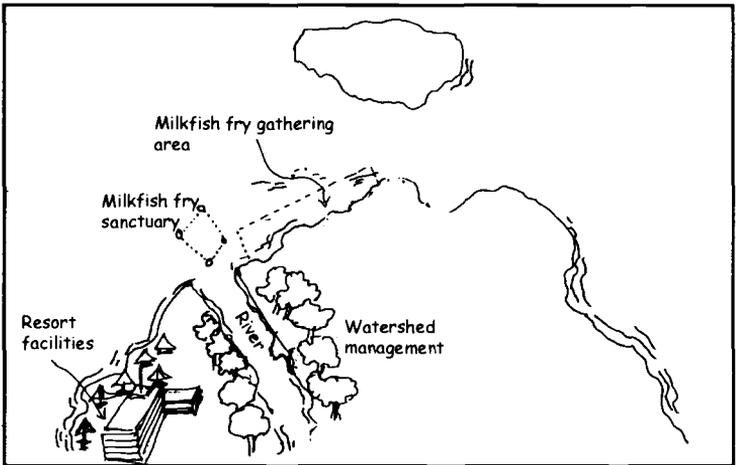
1. Let each CBO identify resources, how they are used and what conflicts there are among resource users for the coastal zone that they use. Resource mapping and transects are useful tools for this process.
2. Ask each CBO involved to produce a map showing the current use of resources in their area and locate where the conflicts are.

Example of a map highlighting resource-use conflicts



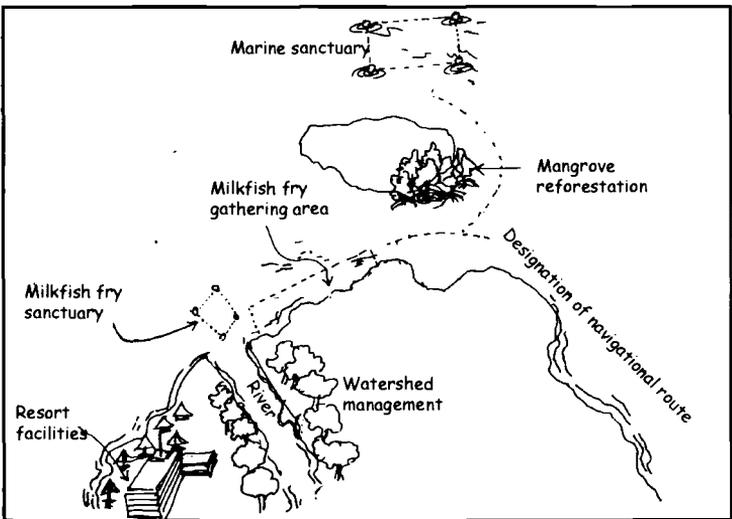
3. Ask each CBO to produce a second map that in their view resolves these conflicts through zoning.

Example of a map of how the area could be zoned



4. Gather together the CBOs in the municipality that are committed to the zoning project to discuss their respective zoning plans. Let them produce a joint map suggesting how the area could be zoned.

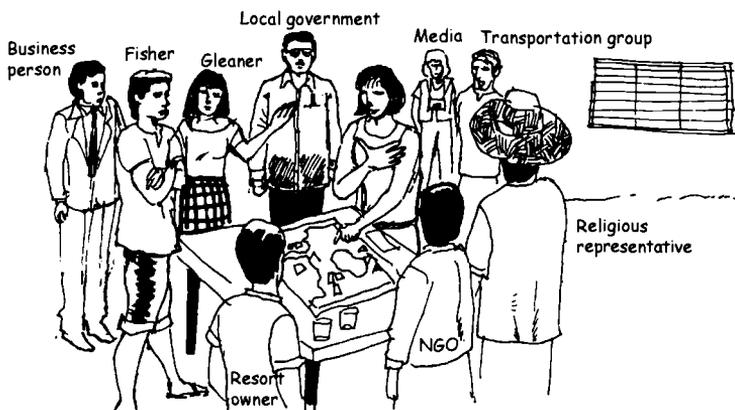
Example of a map jointly produced by the CBOs



5. Ask the CBOs to carry out an information campaign about the proposed plan to community members of their neighboring coastal areas within the municipality to gain the support of unorganized coastal communities.
6. Encourage the CBOs to work with local government in setting up a multi-sectoral forum on coastal zoning. Invite all stakeholders so that they can give their input on how the area could be zoned. Likely sectors are:
 - CBOs
 - small-scale fishers, fry gatherers, gleaners
 - commercial fishers (deep-sea fishers, fish pen/pond owners)
 - business community (tourist resort owners, boat transportation group)
 - NGOs and religious organizations, etc.
 - local officials
 - the police
 - media
 - national government agencies (if appropriate)

Encourage all coastal villages to attend.

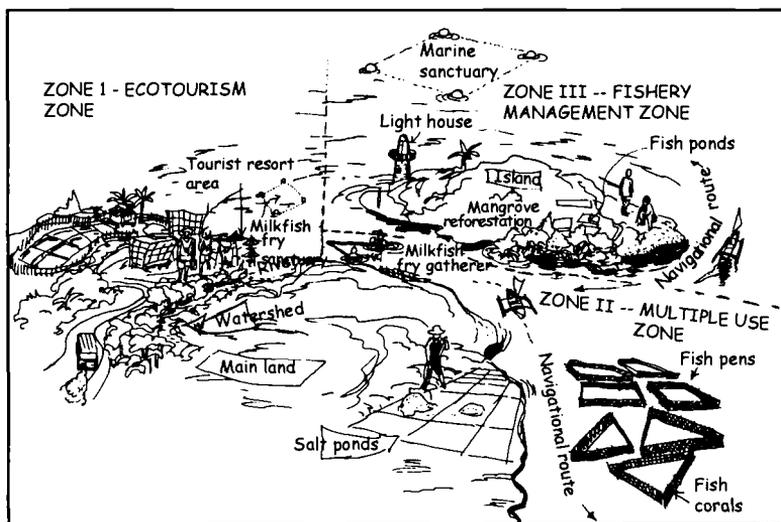
7. Ask the CBOs to present their proposed zonation plan at the multi-sectoral forum and hear the views of other sectors. Do not expect to arrive at a consensus at this early stage of the consultation process.
8. Form a multi-sectoral committee for coastal zoning from among the sectoral representatives. Ask the committee to meet regularly to decide the finer details in producing a zoning plan that takes into account all the views of the forum.



The committee regularly reports back to the whole forum. All the sectors should be represented in the committee. It is essential to have a strong CBO presence in the forum, and particularly the committee, because the local government may tend to be influenced by more powerful sectors, e.g., business and commercial allies.

The output of the committee is the final zoning map and an implementation plan.

The final version of the coastal zoning map



9. Submit the plan to the appropriate legislative body for legislation and discussions on how the zoning laws can be enforced (refer also to topics on legal and institutional analysis).
10. Implement the coastal zoning plan.

This will involve:

- working with different sectors in transferring activities to designated zones;
- setting up environmental projects, such as mangrove reforestation; and
- tapping funding from local government, business sponsors and donor agencies.

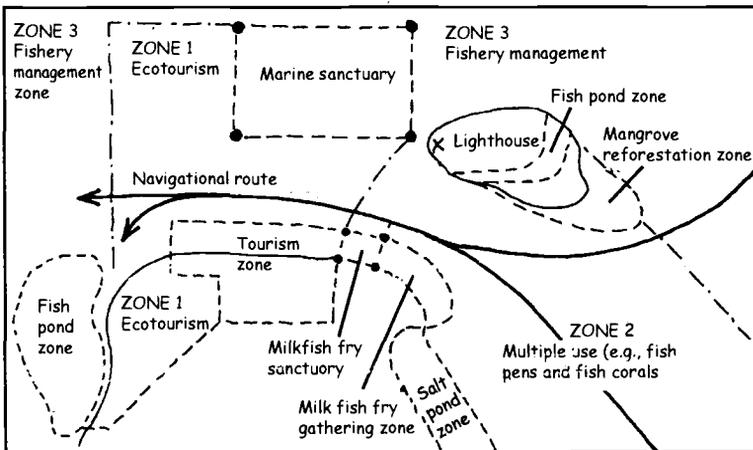


Allow a grace period in the legislation for affected sectors to transfer activities.

Output

★ Comprehensive coastal zonation plan

Sample output: Zoning map in Bolinao, Philippines



- ★ Partnerships formed among stakeholders (refer to topic on building partnerships)

Strengths

- Highly participatory, coastal communities are involved from conceptualization to implementation stage.
- Numerous community consultations involved serve as a venue to expand CBCRM advocacy.
- CBOs are empowered to initiate coastal zoning plan and forge collaboration with various resource-users to implement CBCRM.

Limitations

- Arriving at a consensus or compromise resolutions might take a long time because of the different interests involved.
- Collaboration between CBOs and local government units (LGUs) may be difficult to achieve especially if the latter is influenced by other interests (e.g., commercial).

Prepared by Severino Salmo III