

Governance and climate adaptation in marine fisheries: social and institutional dimensions

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Outline

- Governance and its challenges
- Fisheries as social-ecological systems (SES)
- Adaptive Management
- Important Questions
- Lessons form other reforms

Governance

The UNDP has defined governance as “the system of values, policies and institutions by which a society manages its economic, political and social affairs through interactions within and among the state, civil society and the private sector” (UNDP 2007).

Governance

- Governance is the process of governing
 - Governance is more than government (Kjær 2004)
 - ‘encompassing norms, institutional arrangements and substantive policies’ (Miles 1999: 1).
 - institutional capacity and to effectiveness of public organisations (World Bank 2000)
- Governance by and through markets
- Governance by and through communities
- Governance by and through governments

Governance Challenges

- Ecosystem health, economic benefit and social amenity
- Over-fishing, pollution, and poorly managed adaptation to environmental and climate change

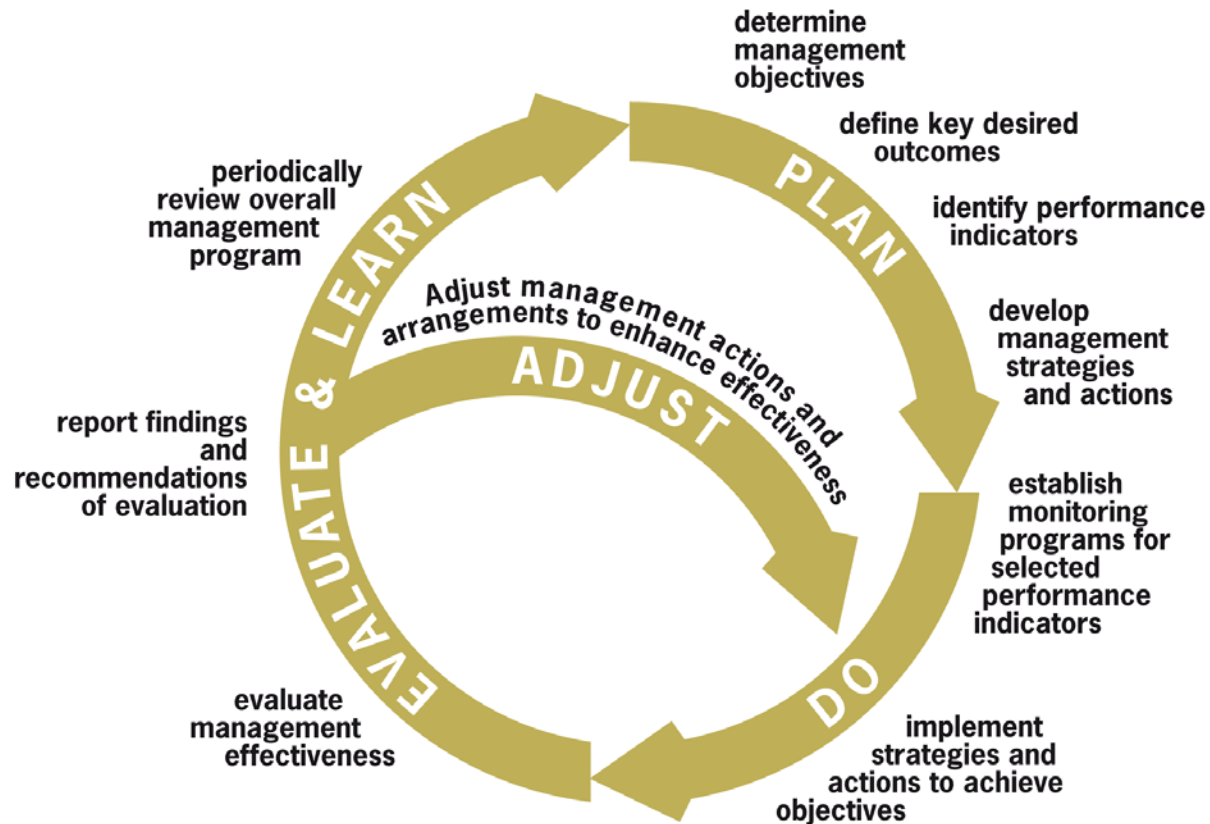
Fisheries as social-ecological systems (SESs)

- Key elements of SESs
 - Ecologic and oceanographic characteristics
 - Social characteristics
 - Institutional arrangements.
- SES approaches as framing governance
 - Adaptive management

Adaptive Management

- Links economic, social and ecological drivers of decision-making
- The key to adaptive management is the iterative, cyclic and reflexive approach to decision making.
- Opportunities for continual review of outputs and outcomes and allow adjustments.

The Adaptive Management Cycle



Key Elements of Adaptive Management

- Management is linked to appropriate temporal and spatial scales
- Management retains a focus on statistical power and controls
- Use of computer models to build synthesis and an embodied ecological consensus
- Use embodied ecological consensus to evaluate strategic alternatives
- Communicate alternatives to political arena for negotiation of a selection (Resilience Alliance 2012).

Challenges

- The broader political environment;
- The resources available to the policy maker(s);
- Constraints; and
- Opportunities.

Important Questions

- What is being proposed?
- Who is 'control' or involved in the development of management arrangements;
- What is the imperative leading to action?
- How is the policy/program to be implemented?
- How is it to be evaluated?

Governance Indicators and Performance Assessment

- Developing governance indicators is challenging
- If operational objectives and indicators can be quantified the relevant performance measures can also be defined clearly and quantitatively.
- Qualitative indicators commonly used to assess social goals (“good governance”) are less easy to ‘measure’

Social and institutional factors

- Long-term planning
- Strategic decision-making
- appropriate governance of climate adaptation in marine fisheries.

Lessons from Other Reforms

- Structural manipulations cannot produce changes in behaviours, especially if existing behaviours are reinforced by other factors;
- There is often greater willingness to coordinate programs at the bottom of organisations than at the top;
- Timing is important; and
- Formal methods of coordination may not be as beneficial as the more informal techniques involving bargaining and negotiation (Peters 1998).

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