

2. Issues and Threats, Fisheries Management and the Ecosystem Approach

Version 1



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



Norad



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA



Focus for this course...

Coastal marine ecosystems



Note: Ecosystem approach can be applied to any other system e.g. inland and offshore ecosystems or aquaculture systems



Issues and threats

- Fisheries and aquatic environment are severely degraded
- Livelihoods and economy are threatened
- Many issues are inter-linked and require holistic solutions
- Many issues are the result of human activities – people are central to solutions



Group activity

1. Discuss threats and issues relating to your fisheries and the associated ecosystem
2. Write each issue/threat on a **SEPARATE** card, think of as many as you can
3. Place the cards on the flipchart
4. Sort the threats and issues identified earlier into:
 - Those that can be addressed by existing fisheries management
 - Those that can be addressed through collaboration with other ministries
 - Others



Management

The many threats and issues identified require management to:

- minimize their impact and
- improve the benefits to society

Fisheries management: “An integrated process that aims to improve the benefits that society receives from harvesting fish.”

Adapted from FAO



Activity

- Can all of the threats and issues identified be addressed through fisheries management?
- If not, what is needed to address them?



Considerations about existing fisheries management

- Fishery resources are seriously degraded in the country with many issues
- Existing fisheries management does not cover all threats and issues and can often fail
- A broader and more inclusive approach is needed that expands on existing management



The future we want: our vision

- Well-governed fisheries sector
- Abundant fisheries resources
- Healthy environment and habitats
- Increased jobs, profits, and improved economy
- Improved human health and prosperity





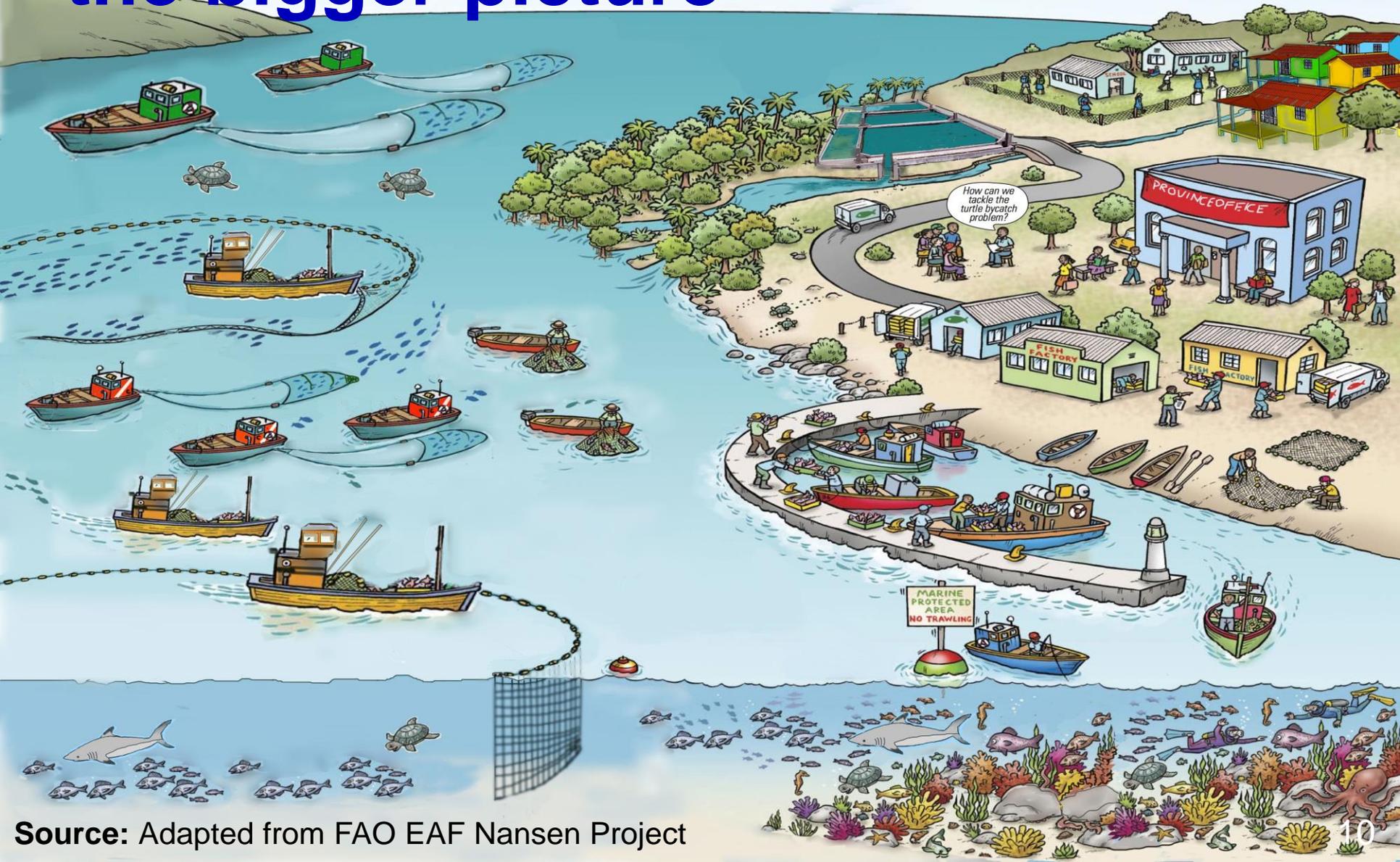
What is the Ecosystem Approach?

EA is a holistic, integrated and participatory management approach that considers the major components in an ecosystem, and the social and economic benefits that can be derived through sustainable use.

CBD 2000 definition: It is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way

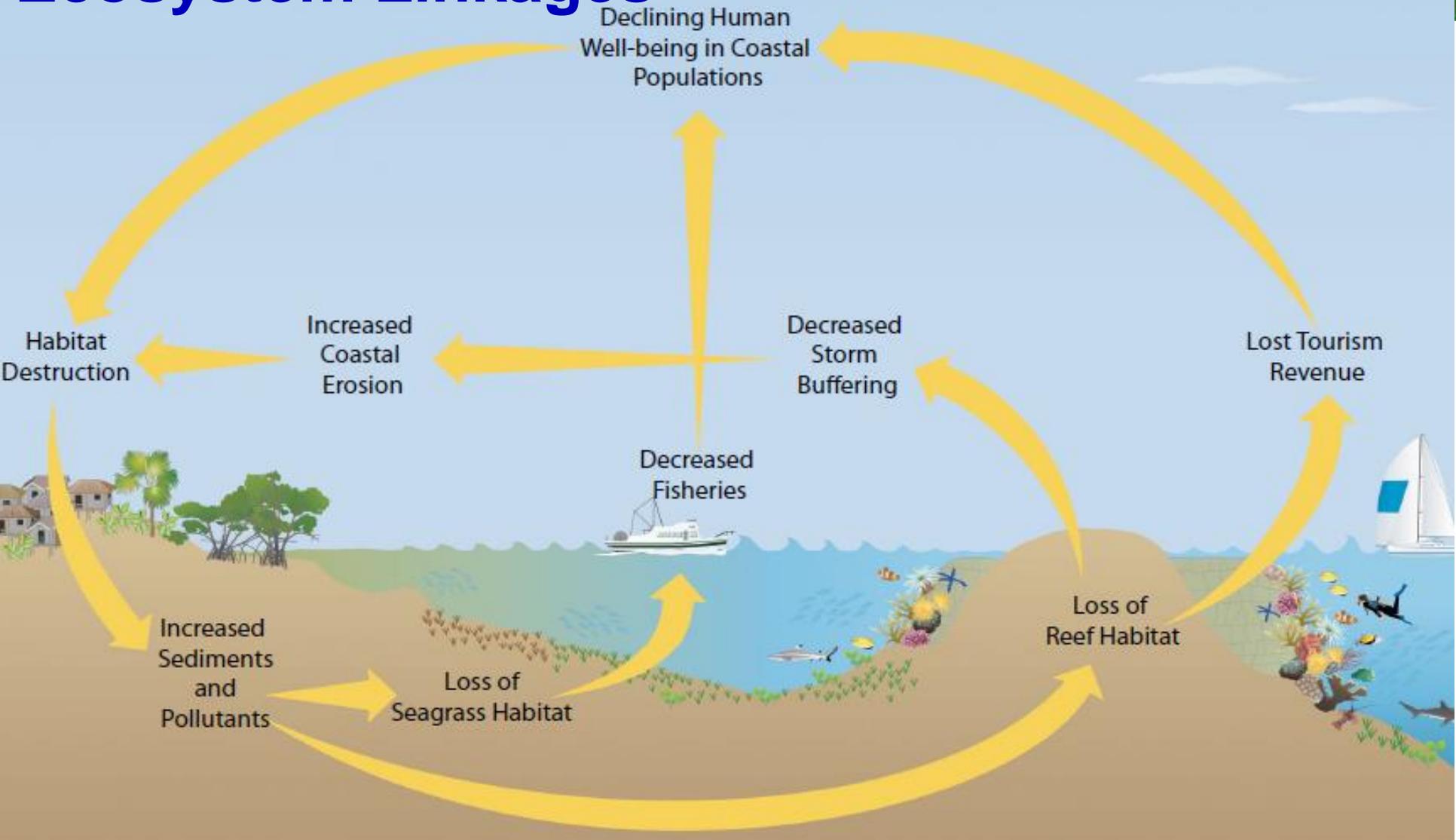
Note: EA is often used interchangeably with ecosystem-based management (EBM)

Fisheries ⇨ Ecosystems... the bigger picture



Source: Adapted from FAO EAF Nansen Project

Ecosystem Linkages



Source: UNEP (2011)



Ecosystems in a fishery context

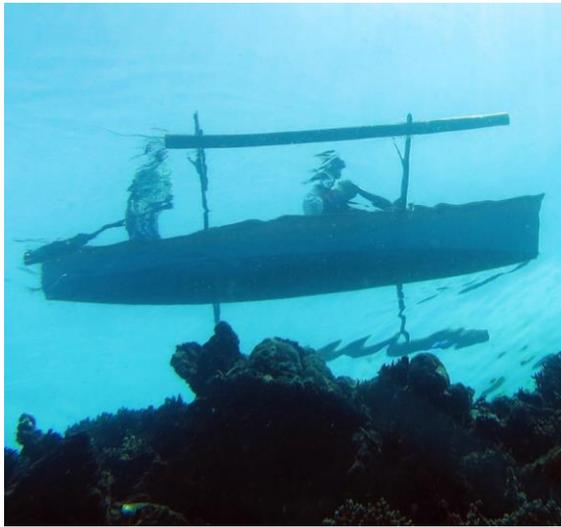
- Fish depend upon their surrounding supporting ecosystem (water, habitats) to survive and thrive
- Managing fisheries in isolation from what they affect and are affected by has proven to be relatively ineffective and unsustainable



Why an Ecosystem Approach?

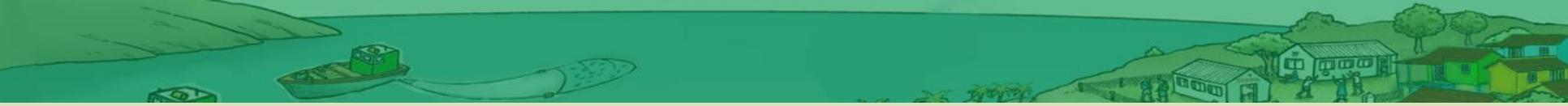
What are the benefits?

- Integrated approach that allows trade-offs when balancing human and ecological well-being
- Allows adaptive management – leading to more effective planning
- Increased stakeholder participation
- Provides a way to consider large-scale, long-term issues (e.g. climate change)



By maximizing ecosystem benefits, EAFM can result in increased food security & reduced poverty

- **Fish for food**
- **Income**
- **Employment**
- **Livelihoods**
- **Trade**
- **Coastal protection**



Key messages

- Threats and issues to sustainable fisheries are broad in scope
 - a number fall outside existing fisheries management
 - a new approach is needed
- EA is about integrative management across land, water and living resources
- EA is a way of implementing sustainable development that promotes:
 - balancing ecological well-being with human well-being through good governance