

Ayeyarwaddy delta, Myanmar Case study





Session objectives

After this session you will be able to:

- Recognize how Myanmar has adopted EAFm principles and moved towards EAFm (case study)
- Determine where your country is at in moving towards EAFm
- Identify challenges your country faces in moving towards EAFm



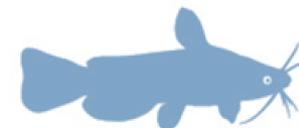
1. Good governance



2. Appropriate scale



3. Increased participation



4. Multiple objectives



5. Cooperation & coordination



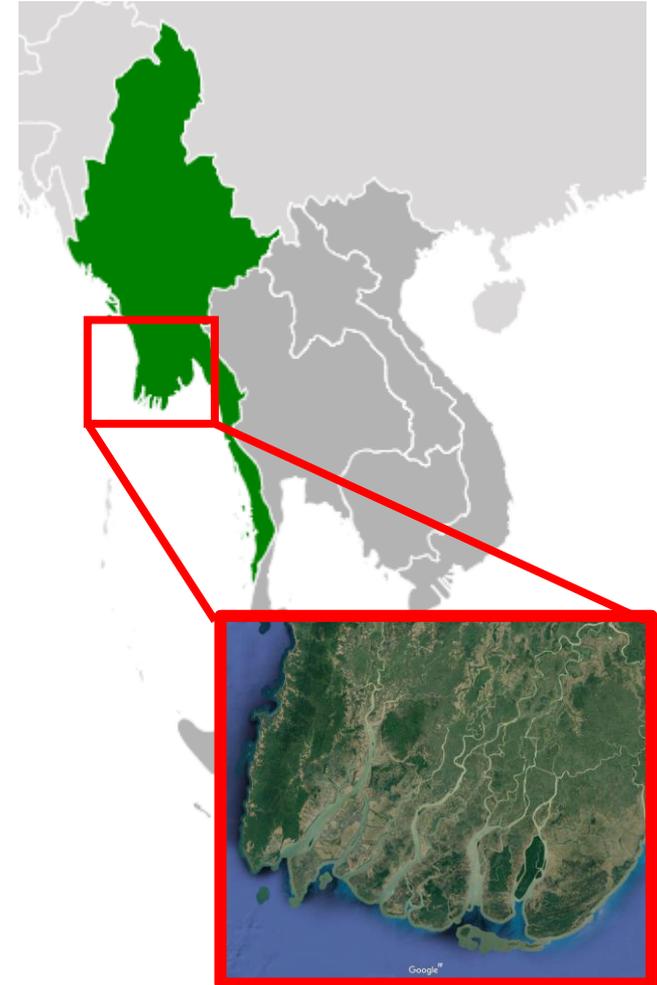
6. Adaptive management



7. Precautionary approach

Strengthening pro-poor fisheries Governance, Ayeyarwaddy Region, Myanmar

- The session will discuss how
- Myanmar's freshwater fisheries laws and policies have been influenced by the EAFm
- The 7 EAFm principles are being adopted into freshwater fisheries management





Ecology: the delta ecosystem

Ayeyarwaddy Delta

- Extensive river / canal network
- Fish Biodiversity– high
- >388 fish species in the Basin
- 193 (50%) endemic to the Basin,
- 100 (26%) of the endemics are only found in Myanmar.

Ecology influenced by seasonal salt water intrusion and retreat.





Ecology: pressures on the system

- Pressures:
 - Intensification of rice farming practices, through inorganic fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides
 - Use of dry season water bodies for irrigation or recession planting
 - Lost floodplain connectivity through roads and embankments, (including aquaculture pond embankments)
 - Natural resource degradation and decline in fisheries production
- Have triggered demands from small-scale fishers for sustainable resources co-management



Fisheries

- Large and migratory species of commercial significance,
 - Catfishes (*Wallago attu* and *Pangasius* species),
 - Hilsa, *Tenuialosa ilisha* – anadromous- one of the Ayeyarwaddy's most economically important fish species.
 - *Catla catla*, *Cirrhinus cirrhosus*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Lates calcarifer*, *Pangasius pangasius*, *Rita sp.*, *Silonia silondia*. *Chana striata*, and *Clarias sp*
 - Declining catches have triggered demands from small-scale fishers for sustainable resources co-management.



Livelihood and economic contribution

- Delta fisheries exploited by large and small-scale fishers and farmers.
 - Many fishers are full-time and landless
 - Poverty rife in fishing communities
- Important generator of food, employment and wealth
 - Domestic, regional & export markets
- Processing of fish source of income for rural households
 - Women play important roles
- Increasing calls from fishers for
 - more equitable sharing of access to natural resources
 - sustainable resources co-management

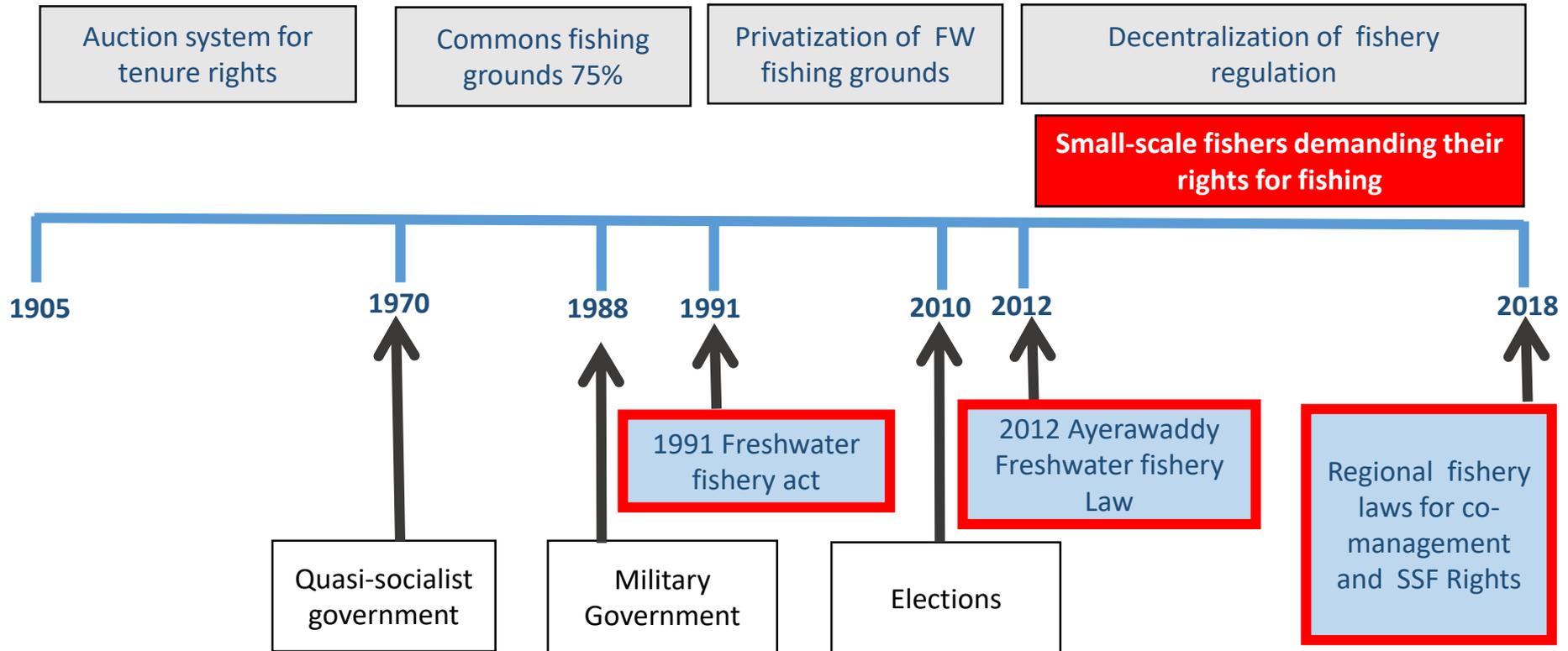




Governance: fishery reforms

- Historically, fisheries governance focused on revenue generation
- Gradual reduction in small-scale fisher access to traditional fishing grounds
 - Since 2012, freshwater fishery governance has steadily improved
 - New laws and pro-poor policies introduced in several states and regions
 - Following successful pilots, fisheries co-management being rolled-out
 - Small-scale fisher access to fishing grounds is improving
- The integration of EAFm into this transitional process could
 - strengthen community fisheries co-management capacity
 - provide way for fisheries officers to engage effectively with community fisher organizations

Timeline: 1905 - 2018



Source: NAG (2011) Tender process analysis

Moving towards EAFm – 7 principles

EAFm principle	How it is being implemented
Good Governance:	Changes in policies and laws attempt to redress gross stakeholder inequalities, and chronic resource degradation
Appropriate Scale	Myanmar's <u>decentralization</u> of inland fisheries governance <u>allows fine tuning of legislation and policies</u> to local conditions and contexts.
Increased participation	At the <u>heart of the governance reforms</u> has been the <u>organization of community and stakeholder groups</u> with an interest in improving fisheries governance, and facilitating their active involvement in policy and law developments.
Multiple objectives	The approach aimed to meet the following objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Pro-poor</u> fisheries governance mainstreamed by Government• <u>Improved livelihoods</u> and incomes for small-scale fishers• <u>Stronger community organisations</u> and community leaders• <u>Sustainable</u> natural resources management• <u>Increased transparency</u>, reduced corruption in revenue from fisheries

Moving towards EAFm – 7 principles (2)

EAFm principle	How it is being implemented
Cooperation and coordination	<p>Creation of <u>community associations and networks</u> allowed for consistency in approach and the coordination of lobbying efforts.</p> <p>This was <u>essential</u> given the isolation of the many remote and disparate fishing communities in the Delta.</p>
Adaptive Management	<p>Process to <u>develop a legal framework</u> providing more equitable and sustainable benefits a <u>process of trial and error lasting >10 years</u>.</p> <p><u>Lessons from other countries</u>, (e.g. Cambodia, Thailand) crucial in showing alternative governance systems in operation, and facilitated the flexible approach adopted by law and policy makers.</p>
Precautionary principle	<p>Reforms proposed and subsequently agreed, <u>did not attempt to displace the existing leasehold and tender systems</u>.</p> <p>Sought to <u>increase stakeholder benefits</u> in lower value fisheries.</p> <p>Preceded by <u>extensive piloting by CSOs</u> to demonstrate how community co-management approaches could benefit poorer fishing households and improve local natural resources management.</p>



Strengthen the capacity to deliver

- NGOs and CSOs leading the capacity building of community fisheries organizations
- Conservation in resource management plans generally weak.
- The integration of EAFm could improve the extension capability and impact of the DoF,
 - Provide tools for fisheries officers to engage effectively with community fisher organizations
 - Strengthen community co-management capacity leading to more sustainable fisheries and their equitable use



Key messages of case study

- EAFM is a step by step process; apply lessons learned along the way
 - increasing stakeholder engagement
 - broadening scale and scope of management
 - built on existing fisheries management
 - strengthen governance
- Many fisheries in the world are doing EAFM in part;
- Each country is a different stage of the journey



Activity 1:

- Each group receives a card that displays one EAFM principle (some groups may have to consider two principles).
- In groups, discuss and score where you think your COUNTRY is along the continuum 0-5 for that principle.
- Using the lines set out on the floor, one representative for each principle paces out their score while holding the card.



Activity 2: In groups

1. Identify the **challenges** your country might face in moving towards EAFM
2. Write each challenge on a card. (**ONE** challenge per card)
3. Now identify **opportunities** your country may have in moving towards EAFM (and in meeting the above challenges).
4. Write each opportunity on a separate card