

MALDIVES AQUACULTURE PLATFORM

16 JUNE 2011

1. Visit of Roy Palmer to Male, June 14th – 17th 2011.

14th – Meeting with MIFCo

15th -Government Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture (Dr Hussain Rasheed Hassan) & Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture (Dr Mariyam Zulfa)

General Meeting – Aquaculture Awareness – Ali Faiz (MD MIFCo), Dr Hassan (Min Fisheries & Agriculture) & Roy Palmer (AwF) – presentations – questions.

16th – MAP Strategic Planning Meeting - The purpose of this separate meeting is to achieve a draft work-plan to get the Maldivian Aquaculture Platform (MAP) moving which will attract companies to invest in Aquaculture in the Maldives. The MAP is a Strategic Plan that needs to inform and advise the government how to deal with the many issues/items that will be required to establish aquaculture in Maldives. Additionally the MAP will be an all inclusive document for all stakeholders.

List of all attendees will be attached.

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2. MAP Strategic Plan kick off

The first question is: Are we starting this Platform? Yes

Is it possible to get governmental funds for this? Working funds, Administration, travel funds. Website needed for communication tool.

Everyone to work on SWOT – Needs and Advantages etc – to be homework for participants but started below

MAP needs to be embraced by all – ego's left at door....

MAP needs excellence in Governance, transparency, etc

MAP will cover Food & Non Food

Umbrella group at helm (Stakeholders) and from there an Executive Committee will be agreed

Formation of Committees

There will be strong Education & Training focus

Strong communication is essential

3. *Opportunities* - Why we need MAP

13,500MT White Fish Fillets imported per annum (equates to 30-40,000 MT Whole Fish)

Tourism demand on increase (1 million people expected this year = more demand)

Fishing on the decline

Uncompetitive on Canned production (have to import cans, etc)

Home Seafood Consumption high

Improve Balance of Payments (decrease imports & increase exports)

6/7,000+ children leaving school each year looking for employment

Food security

Strengths – Advantages

Good Marine infrastructure

Plenty of scope with water

Enterprising Government

Research Institution

Strong domestic market

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Keen participants with water as second nature
Inclusion of Tourism to tell the story
Opportunity to learn from others' mistakes
AwF & WAS independent connections – offering independent professional advice for low fees and wide range of experts

Weaknesses

Funding
Getting total collaboration
Need Government to move on Aquaculture Act
Need Government to consider Food Security Act
Timing

Threats

Not getting full support from Government
Not getting full support from industry
Not getting support from funders/investors
Process might be too lengthy

4, Goals of the MAP:

Mission: To be discussed and agreed
Vision: To be discussed and agreed
MAP should consist of national and international, academic and commercial experts.
MAP will have a clear structure, with a transparent budget.
MAP will aim to get government and additional support for funding for the first 5 years
All committees formed will report to Executive Committee
Collaboration, Communication, Transparency, Inclusivity to ensure best outcomes for Maldives Community

5. UMBRELLA GROUP – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Govt – HEP – National Planning Comm. - Policy Makers
Likely Govt lead Agency - Fisheries & Agriculture - Policy Makers
Chamber of Commerce - Traders Assoc - Private Sectors, Investors:
MSPEA - Seafood Assoc - Private Sectors, Investors:
Rep of Aquaculture Interests - Private Sectors, Investors:
Economic Ministry - Policy Makers
MFDA – Health - Policy Makers
Cargo Assoc - Private Sectors
EPA - Policy Makers
Bankers Representative - Private Sectors, Investors:
UNDP - Investors
FAO – Specialists, Investors
MRC – Marine Research Centre - Specialist

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University Representative - Specialists
Min of Education - Policy Makers
Local Govt Authority (7 Regions) - Policy Makers
Maldives PR - Civil Society
R&D International Tropical Aquaculture Expert - Specialists
Parliament Economic Advisory Comm. - Policy Makers
MATI - Tourism Industry - Private Sectors
Customs - Policy Makers
Coastguard - Policy Makers
Police - Civil Society
Consumers Representative - Civil Society
MIFCo (Administrators) - Investors:
Mario Stael (WAS) - Specialists
Roy Palmer (AwF) - Specialists:

Breakdown of Sectors

Private Sectors:
Investors:
Specialists:
Civil Society:
Policy Makers:

We see this as the UMBRELLA Group – the idea is to ensure we have all the Stakeholders in the loop. From this the suggestion is we create an Executive Committee (a Board) of say 7 members– this would be 1 from each sectors identified (5) plus 1 aquaculture representative and an Independent Chairman (RP)

MAP will create various working Committees consisting of

- **Technical**
 - Overall plan of activities and actions – integrated and mixed species (Food & Non Food)
 - Research and development already completed ‘library’
 - Plan of required research that needs to be done into the future.
 - Gap analysis and priority in R&D
 - Plan of Species to be cultured,
 - Site selection, Including mapping weather conditions, currents and depths leading to mapping of potential aquaculture area for shellfish, onshore, open water aquaculture, Traffic, predators, water quality issues. The environmental impact, etc, Specific areas to be defined (vs. tourism, environmental groups), red tide info?
 - Establish Maldives Standards for all aspects of Aquaculture operations – these would be based on International Standards but would form the basis for the Maldives Brand.
 - Licences – how will this be organised in a fair and equitable manner.

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Investigate feed alternatives
Hatchery and Grow-out Plan
Biosecurity
Processing facilities plan
Compliance arrangements
Security of investment – avoiding poaching, stealing equipment etc
Will identify a geographically defined area that an ecosystem-based aquaculture project or program has decided to address and that therefore is the focal point for a baseline/benchmark process (AoF) **.

- Finance –
Plan including all data for investors
Will engage investors to ascertain requirements
It will approach all known sources for grant funds (World Bank, FAO, UNIDO, etc).
Budgets for MAP
Sponsors
RoI to ensure Economic aspects of Strategic Plan
Cost/Benefit Analysis
Compliance
- Structure / Policy
Works with Government at the national level to gain commitment to a plan of action designed to adopt an ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) by issuing a formalized commitment to an EAA, thereby putting in place the “enabling conditions”
Work with Govt to create an Aquaculture Act as this is crucial to long term investment. This should be considered as part of a bigger Food Security Act. This should include conflicts of land, sea, reef usage – need to cover all aspects of conflict and include resolution procedures.
Aquaculture should be given priority on Food Security Act
Include a structured regulatory framework that would be based on long term commitments (ideally 50 years minimum – look at world’s best practice). This should include advice from Finance Committee on what is acceptable to Bankers in today’s world
Compliance
Security of investment – avoiding poaching, stealing equipment etc
- Education/Workforce Development –
Skilled workers are essential so the aim will be to establish Aquaculture in the schools in long term as part of Technical Vocational Educational Training (TVET) in order that you are breeding a culture from the onset.
Connectivity with international educational groups and Universities will be essential.

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Educational workshops and upgrading skills (current industry) will be on-going for all seafood people currently engaged or looking to get engaged into the future with aquaculture.

Needs to have strong Community educational focus – engagement of all Maldives in Aquaculture – e.g. Corporate Social Responsibility

Career pathways to be identified and promoted

- Marketing/Promotion –
Marketing research for the species chosen
International trade show involvement to attract investment
Organizing seminars/symposia/workshops.
Marketing plan for The Maldives Aquaculture Platform
CSR activities with Maldives promotions
Working with Tourism and Maldives PR program
Website – get that MESSAGE OUT
- Administration. MIFCo person to be initially responsible for all communication within the platform. This to be ratified as we progress
- Communication Strategy to be completed

FUTURE

Communicate what we have done last few days – RP/MIFCo – RP to write to HEP 16 June advising status since Jan meeting. MIFCo to email meeting participants copies of this meeting and yesterdays presentations by 20 June

Website – MIFCo to investigate

HEP is invited to give Maldives presentation focusing on Aquaculture Potential at the IAFI in Washington, October 2011. If doing this we need to organize Press release in all aquaculture magazines in July/august. A Flyer should be distributed during the conference/presentation.

RP to do a blog re Maldives by 24 June

Consider meeting Mon 5 Sept – RP on way to France for Conference in Nantes (7-9 Sept) hence would arrive Male on 4 Sept and leave evening 5 Sept and arrive Nantes 6 Sept

AIM

By October much of this can be in place and can be announced at the IAFI World Seafood Congress where the HEP of The Maldives has been honored with the Opening Keynote address. Further meetings can be held importantly in Washington, D.C at that time with organizations such as The World Bank, etc”

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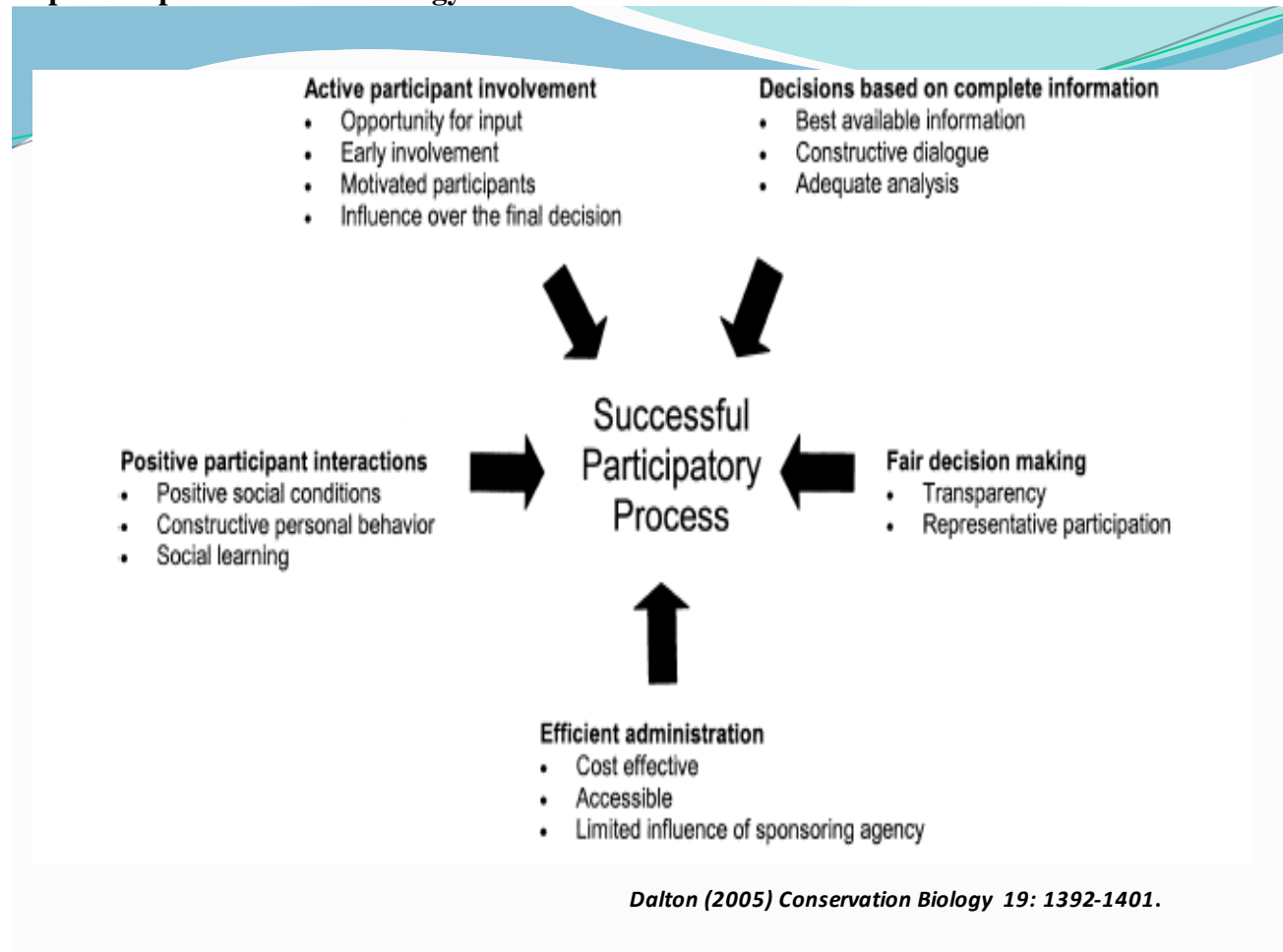
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**“Base lining” form reference points against which future changes in the aquaculture ecosystem will be gauged

The first part of a baseline is an ecosystem audit of the AoF i.e. to define natural and social systems within which aquaculture is planned

The second part of the baseline is an outline of the strategic approach to designing a new aquaculture program, or adapting an on-going program. It will address the ecosystem management issues of the place in terms of economic, environmental, and societal benefits. It will aim to encourage long-term perspective, an appreciation of the roles played by civil society, markets and government.

Important process in the Strategy



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1. Define the sustainability issues
2. Complete a sustainability assessment
3. Complete detailed risk analyses
4. Complete a plan for ameliorating identified impacts and unacceptable risks by incorporation of better/best practices
5. Complete a plan for communicating the evolution of operations towards greater stewardship and sustainability

Major Expressions of Governance

Government

- Laws and regulations
- Taxation and spending policies
- Education and outreach

Marketplace

- Profit seeking
- Ecosystem service valuation
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Eco-labeling and Green Products

Civil Society: Organizations and Institutions

- Product choices
- Advocacy and lobbying
- Vote casting
- Co-management
- Stewardship activities

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First Order

Government at the national level commits to a plan of action designed to adopt an ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) by issuing a formalized commitment to an EAA, thereby putting in place the “enabling conditions”

Indicators

New laws, programs, and procedures are initiated that provide the legal, administrative, and management mechanisms to achieve the desired changes in behavior by:

- (i) **building constituencies** that actively support EAA with the user groups that will be most affected; with government institutions involved; and with the general public;
- (ii) **developing a formal government mandate** for an EAA with the authority necessary to implement actions in the form of laws, decrees, or other high level administrative decisions that create an EAA as a permanent feature of the governance structure of aquaculture; creation of commissions, working groups, user organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dedicated to the advancement of an EAA agenda; designating EAA zones;
- (iii) **devoting resources**, especially sustained annual funding, adequate to implement an EAA;
- (iv) **developing an implementation plan of action** for an EAA that is constructed around unambiguous goals;
- (v) **creating the institutional capacity** necessary to implement the new EAA plan of action.

Second Order

Evidence of successful implementation of an EAA

Indicators

- (1) **Changes in the behavior** of institutions and interest groups have occurred such as collaborative planning and decision-making through creation of task forces, commissions, civic associations, etc.
- (2) **Successful application of conflict mediation** activities.
- (3) **Evidence of functional changes** such as establishment of new public-private partnerships, new collaborative actions undertaken by user groups, implementation of new school curricula that incorporates an EAA.
- (4) **Changes in behaviors** directly affecting ecosystem goods and services, such as the elimination of socially and environmentally destructive aquaculture practices.
- (5) **Investments in infrastructure** supportive of EAA policies and plans.

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Third Order

Evidence of sustained achievements in institutional and behavioral change due to an EAA as seen in the environment and indicators for the quality of life, incomes, or engagement in alternative livelihoods that have improved target communities

Indicators

(1) **Improvements in ecosystem qualities**, such as sustained conservation of desired ecosystems and habitats, halting or slowing undesired trends such as nutrient releases, feed wastage, diseases, damaged benthic ecosystems, etc.

(2) **Improvements in society** as evidenced by monitoring of social indicators such as increases in indices of quality of life, reduced poverty, greater life expectancy, better employment opportunities, greater equity in access to coastal resources and the distribution of benefits from their use, greater order, transparency and accountability in how planning and aquaculture development decision-making processes occur, greater food security, or greater confidence in the future.