



Assessment of Fish Conservation Zones in Lao PDR



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What are FCZs?



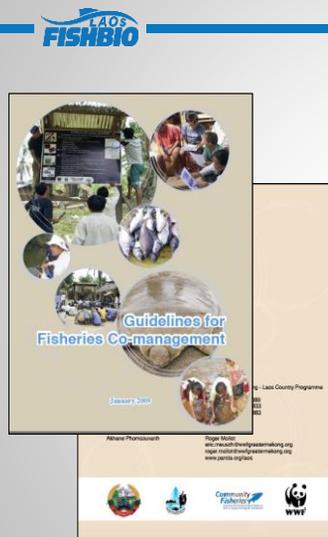
- **Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs)** = areas closed to some or all fishing
- Goals to protect fish populations, livelihoods, food security
- Lao Fisheries Law (2009): Legal framework for FCZ co-management
- Responsibility shared between communities and local government authorities
- Now more than 1,000 FCZs in Lao PDR



Many Groups Have Helped Establish FCZs in Lao PDR



Handbook for FCZ Establishment



- 2009 Guidebook by DLF and WWF
- Step-by-Step Guidelines for establishing new co-managed FCZs
- Community consultations, regulations development and approval, sign installation, enforcement
- Next step: FCZ assessment

Assessment is a Key Step in Fisheries Management



“As [FCZ] objectives are defined and agreed upon by the local community, it is important that the community members are involved in periodically **reviewing the effectiveness of regulations** in meeting these objectives.”



Key Steps in developing regulations for Participatory Aquatic Resources Management



Tools are Needed for FCZ Assessment



- How do we know if FCZs are successful? Only way to know is with assessment
- Fisheries management does not end with FCZ establishment
- Need to regularly check-in to assess and adjust management activities
- Tools are needed to guide the FCZ assessment process



FCZ Assessment is Like Health Check-Ups



1) Take a child to visit the doctor. The doctor takes measurements.



2) The doctor uses standard tools to assess whether the child is healthy.



3) The doctor makes recommendations to improve health.



4) Repeat the health check-up process as the child gets older.

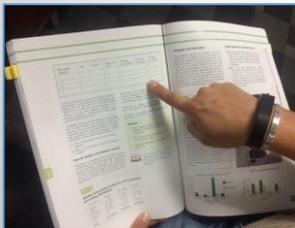


New Project Goal: Develop a Guidebook for Monitoring FCZs in Lao PDR



To improve the use of FCZs for aquatic conservation and livelihood sustainability:

- Develop a guidebook of best practices for assessing FCZs in Lao PDR
- Provide networking opportunities for Civil Society Organizations and fishery co-management groups working with FCZs



Three Project Phases from 2016-2018



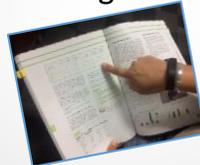
- **2016:** Develop a framework for assessing FCZ effectiveness and create a draft guidebook for FCZ assessment in Lao PDR
- **2017:** Test the framework outlined in the guidebook by measuring indicators at 3 pilot FCZ sites in the field
- **2018:** Refine, finalize, and disseminate the guidebook



Project Output: FCZ Assessment Guidebook



- The guidebook will be multi-page document. This tool is intended to help a community or organization answer the question, “**Is this FCZ successful?**”
- Will include list of recommended indicators of FCZ performance in three categories:
 - Ecological
 - Socioeconomic
 - Governance
- Will include guidance on methods that can be used to measure each of these indicators in the field
- Written in English and translated into Lao, available online



Intended Benefits

- Help FCZ managers use time and effort most effectively by determining which approaches are successful or unsuccessful
- Help CSOs collect information to demonstrate to donors the value of continued support for FCZs
- Allow stakeholders to provide input on the guidebook to ensure it is as useful and relevant as possible
- Improve communication and sharing lessons learned among organizations involved in FCZ management and assessment

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Assessing the Effectiveness of FCZs

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What is an “Assessment”?



- Assessment is a process of gathering information on how well an FCZ is performing
- Assessments should be conducted regularly, not just one time
- Assessment can be done through measuring indicators of effectiveness
 - **Indicator:** A specific qualitative or quantitative variable directly linked to management goals and objectives used to measure the status and trends of management effectiveness



Why Assess the Effectiveness of FCZs?



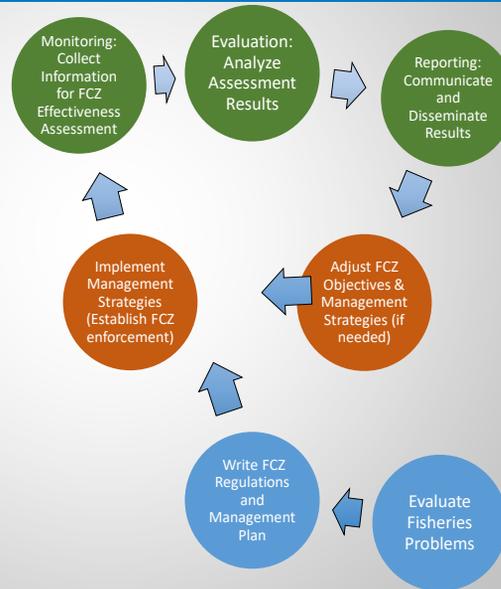
- Considerable effort in establishing FCZs, but this alone does not guarantee success
- Assessment is necessary to understand if FCZs are performing as desired
- Situations may change over time and errors may be made; assessment can help learn from experience



Assessing the Effectiveness of FCZs



Figure 1: Fisheries Management Cycle. The steps in blue occur during the FCZ establishment phase, the steps in Orange occur during the fisheries co-management process, and the steps in green occur as part of an FCZ effectiveness assessment (these steps are covered in this book).



How to conduct an FCZ effectiveness assessment:



- **Monitoring: Conduct FCZ Effectiveness Assessment**
- **Step 1:** Identify FCZ goals and objectives
- **Step 2:** Select indicators to measure these goals and objectives
- **Step 3:** Plan the assessment and select methods for measuring the relevant indicators
- **Step 4:** Collect data for the assessment

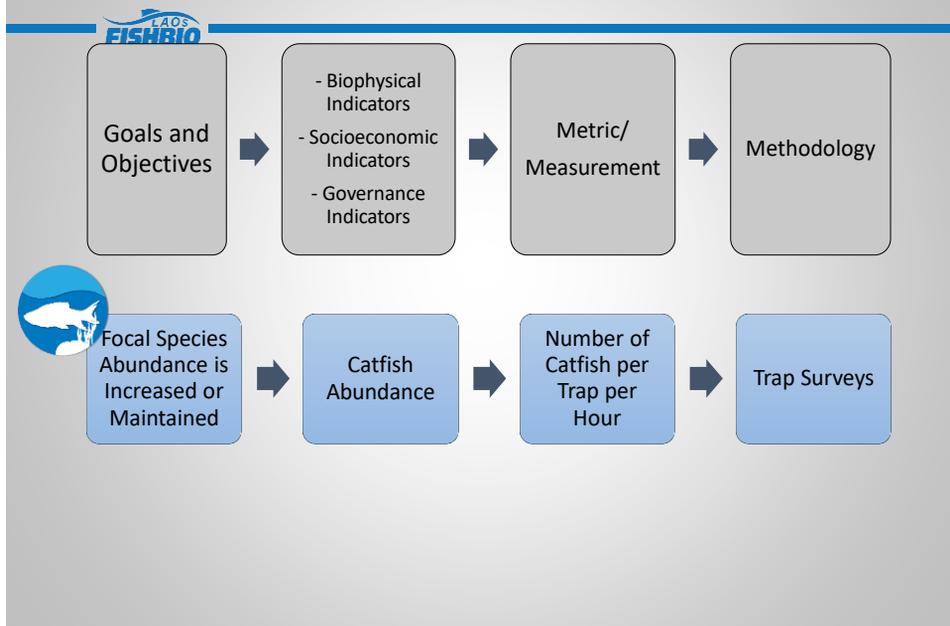
How to conduct an FCZ effectiveness assessment:



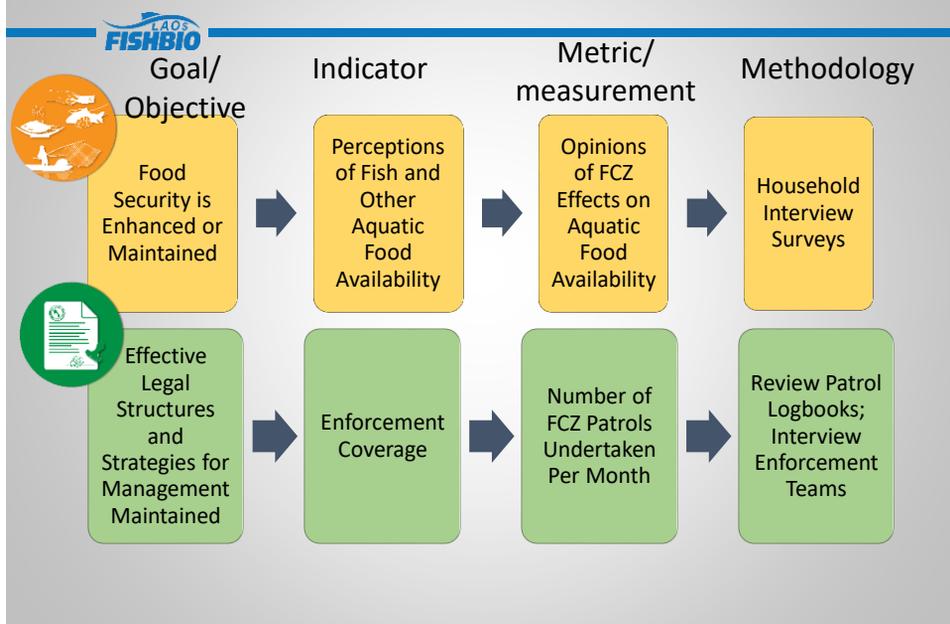
- **Evaluation: Analyze Assessment Results**
- **Step 5:** Analyze and evaluate assessment results
- **Reporting: Communicate and Disseminate Findings**
- **Step 6:** Communicate assessment findings
- **Step 7:** Make recommendations for how the management committee can adapt management strategies if needed



How do you use an indicator?



How do you use an indicator?



Conclusions



- Considerable effort goes into establishing FCZs, but establishment alone does not ensure successful conservation and management of resources
- FCZ Assessments can benefit communities, CSO partners, and the government
- Clear goals and objectives are essential for selecting appropriate indicators
- Useful indicators should be: measurable, precise, consistent, sensitive, relevant, simple and understandable
- Indicators are used to measure FCZ success towards achieving its *ecological, socioeconomic, and governance* objectives

