Needs case

Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting
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Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

Sri Lanka
1. The policy context

Vision

- Sri Lanka to become a nation in the Indian Ocean region that conserves and sustainably utilizes both living and non-living ocean resources for sustainable development.
Scope for marine fishery resources

- Territorial sea of 21,500 sq km.

- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 517,000 sq km.

- Lagoons and estuaries of 158,000 ha.
2. Concerns

• Environmental:
  1. All forms of oceanic pollution that include nuclear pollution, oil pollution, chemical pollution, micro-biological pollution, plastic and micro-plastic pollution
  2. Over fishing including “ghost” fishing and poaching

• Social and economic concerns:
  1. Nutrition of the masses through the supply of cheap animal protein
  2. Employment and food security
  3. Export income
  4. Leisure
3. Priorities

- Policy targets and objectives
  1. Sustainable management of living marine resources using science-based information and in compliance to requirements in international treaties
  2. Increased fish production through fisheries and aquaculture
  3. Minimized post-harvest losses of and increased value addition to the production
  4. Increased per-capita supply of fish
  5. Increased earnings from export of fish products
  6. Improved opportunities for employment, enterprise development and leisure
  7. Improved socio-economic conditions of the fisher community
4. Current plans

Policies, strategies and priorities

• Apply ecosystem and precautionary approaches to promote responsible fisheries management

• Take all possible measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

• Monitor the fishing activities of the local fishing vessels electronically through transponders, logbook reports, onboard observers, inspection at harbours, and other means

• Prevent overcapacity of the fishing fleet

• Enhance the stocks of endangered, threatened and protected species
4. Current plans (Contd.)

Policies, strategies and priorities (Contd.)

• Comply with fisheries management measures stipulated in international treaties and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs)

• Cooperate with other coastal States directly and through RFMOs for conservation and management of highly migratory and straddling fish stocks

• Promote recreational fisheries without conflicting with mainstream fisheries

• Develop peoples’ resilience to cope up with impacts of climatic change and natural disasters

• Work for prevention of corruption and economic fraud including fish laundering in the fisheries sector

• Ensure that no human rights are violated in development and management of the fisheries sector
5. Stakeholders

National and regional stakeholders who are (or should be) engaged

National

• Fishers and aquaculturists (fish producers)
• Fish processors, traders and distributors including exporters
• Suppliers of fishing vessels and fishing equipment
• Suppliers of other inputs and services (ice, cold-storage, transport, etc.)
• Fishery managers
• Fisheries policy makers
• Fish consumers
5. Stakeholders (Contd.)

National and regional stakeholders who are (or should be) engaged (Contd.)

Regional

- RFMOs
- Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) (e.g. BOBP-IGO)
- Funding Agencies
6. Role of the NSO

• General role with respect to sustainable development informing stakeholders
7. Institutional mechanisms

Mechanisms for coordinating ocean and related policies

• Establish a regional secretariat and a working group representing governments for collection and coordination of information
8. Main data sources

Ocean and related (including progress on environmental-economic accounting and other integrated data initiatives such as sustainable tourism)

- Governments
- Related regional organizations
- Academic and research institutions
- NGOs
9. Opportunities and constraints

Opportunities (funding, policies, initiatives requiring integrated ocean data)

• Donor agencies willing to support initiatives
• Private sector organizations willing to support initiatives
• Media reports for information

Constraints (institutional, capacity, funding…)

• Lack of national institutional mechanisms
• Lack of or scattered information
• Lack of competent personnel
• Lack of funds
10. Priority actions

Suggested topics of focus for an ocean pilot

- Identification of threats to the sustainable use of ocean
- Development of approaches to sustainable use of the ocean
Thank you!