

Climate change and Fisheries

When the communities affected by the Tsunami are re-built there is considerable political will to ensure they will be made resistance and given sufficient warning systems for future tidal waves. Yet will these communities be re-built to resist the increasing threats of climate change, including: rising sea-levels, more frequent cyclones, floods, shifting and declining fish populations and erosion of protective coral reefs?

PROMOTING NEW KNOWLEDGE

The **aim** of this project is to promote awareness of climate change impacts on fisheries. It follows on from a previous DFID research project which looked at the effects of climate change on the sustainability of capture and enhancement fisheries important to the poor. **This flyer covers:**

- Are impacts of climate change on fisheries a concern?
- Why is it necessary to promote new knowledge on climate change and fisheries?
- How will this project promote new knowledge?
- What are the key dates and activities
- Contacts and further information



ARE IMPACTS ON FISHERIES A CONCERN?

Climate change can adversely affect fisheries in a variety of ways including in the short term through increased climatic variation affecting up-welling or wind driven fisheries. For example increasing temperatures and reducing wind speeds on Lake Tanganyika have been linked with lower fisheries production.

In the short and medium term increased extreme

events can adversely affect infrastructure and fishing gears, as well as having implications for health.

In the longer term climatic shifts may result in permanent changes such as fish distributions, changes to river deltas and the degradation of sensitive ecosystems such as coral reefs and coastal wetlands having knock-on effects to fisheries. Fisheries sectors in develop-

ing countries have the potential to contribute significantly to economic growth and poverty reduction. This is often hampered by a number of stressors including over-exploitation of resources and high levels of poverty and vulnerability of fishing communities.

Climate change will further increase the vulnerability of fishing communities and reduce the contribution of fisheries to economic growth.

WHY PROMOTE INFORMATION?



Floodplain fisheries are reliant on water flow

There are several reasons why there is a need to promote knowledge on climate change and fisheries:

- There is a lack of information on the impacts of climate change on fisheries and potential adaptation measures;
- Fisheries are often not considered within National Adaptation Plans of Action;

- Fisheries management in developing countries do not take climate change impacts into account;
- Co-management systems are not designed to increase resilience of fishing communities to climate change.
- Fishing communities may need specific interventions to reduce their vulnerability generally and to climate change.

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HOW WILL THE PROJECT PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE?

Previous research produced the following outputs:

- Literature review of the impacts of climate change on fish, fisheries and fisher-folk in developing countries;
- Summary of mechanisms through which climate change may influence fisheries;
- Global analysis of the vulnerability of the fishing sector to projected climate change;
- Case studies on vulnerable fishing-related ecosystems including coral reefs, African lakes and River basins and flood-plains in Bangladesh.
- Recommendations for future research

The **current project** will undertake further literature reviews to understand the impacts of climate change on fisheries in the context of other natural resource sectors and will provide the following outputs:

1. **Policy brief** synthesising key issues on climate change and fisheries to form part of *FAO's New Directions in Fisheries* series.
2. **Workshop** with stakeholders from fisheries, climate change scientists, adaptation experts to discuss issues and contribute to policy brief.
3. **Communication materials** including newsletter articles, web-pages, key-sheet and presentations.



Will fish production be reduced by climate change?

KEY DATES

**Workshop on Climate change impacts on fisheries important to the poor:
Vulnerability and adaptability of fisher-folk
13th September, 2005 London**

Please contact us if you would like to attend the workshop . Places are limited.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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