

Session on gender approach and coastal fisheries

Case study 1 - Villagers to benefit from marine managed areas and support from Government

The project

After a survey on coastal fish stocks in a particular coastal province, the Government of Oceania found increased levels of overfishing as well as an increased use of banned methods of fishing. As a means to increase fish stocks, the Government decided to set up marine managed areas in at least three coastal villages to begin with.

With some core funding from the Government and other donors, the Inshore Division of the Ministry of Fisheries convened a consultation within their Section to discuss ways to boost fish stocks in selected coastal villages. The Inshore Division included the following staff: 2 research officers (both male), 2 extension officers (1 male and 1 female), 2 senior fisheries policy officers (1 male, 1 female) and the section director, a male.

After much discussion within the team, they decided that they would seek expressions of interest from all 10 coastal villages in order to access the funding and technical support. They decided on the following criteria for villages:

- * *applications had to be on behalf of a village, with signed consent from at least 20% of the village members OR, from a recognised group within the village such as a youth group, church group or women's group.*
- * *Signed approval of at least 70% of the whole clan/mataqali/village elders or chiefs if traditional or customary land*
- * *A signed letter from the applicant(s) delivered to the nearest fisheries office/station in their village or community*

Upon meeting these conditions, the Inshore Division would then assess the applications and carry out due diligence checks to ensure they were coastal communities before on-going support.

Discussion points

- You are from Oceania.
- You have been invited to attend a consultation led by the Inshore Fisheries Division to facilitate discussions around the establishment of marine managed areas in your Province. Your village has not applied but there are people that have expressed interested in this opportunity.
 1. What do you desire, need and want to reach as a result of this project? What are your human rights needs – are they any different?
 2. How would a project like this benefit you?
 3. What fears, frustrations, obstacles or challenges could you have to face in relation to the proposed project?
 4. Reflecting on your own country, how do these criteria marginalise women (and other groups: youth, people with disability?)
 5. What opportunities are there, in this case, to apply a people-centred approach and how can they be applied?

SPC's Second Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries has been organised with funding assistance from:

