



How small-scale fisheries demonstrates the value of wellbeing for social-ecological governance

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Structure:

1. Poverty and conservation: is wellbeing a bridging tool?

[Millennium Ecosystem Assessment]

2. Why wellbeing in small-scale fisheries: stark conflicts between development and conservation goals

3. Three areas of contribution:

3.1 Divergent policy agendas within fisheries

3.2 Understanding fisher behaviour and motivation

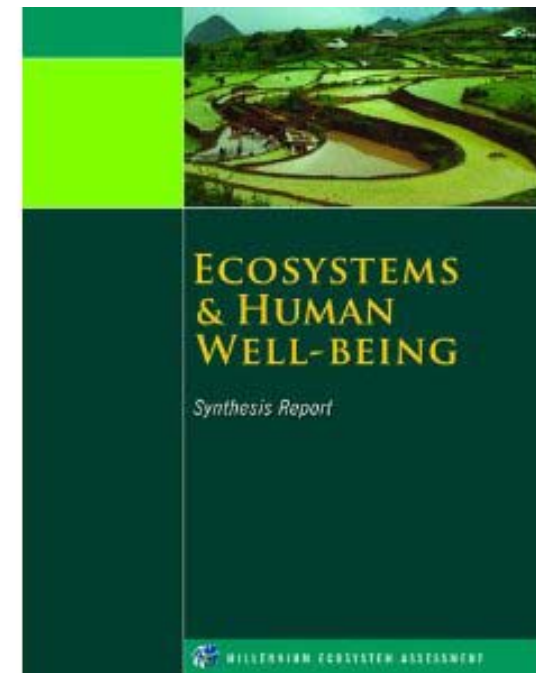
3.3 Divergent social interests and trade-offs to be negotiated through governance processes

1. Poverty and conservation - divergent agendas

- Dilys Roe (2008) – poverty-conservation debate oscillates between periods of convergence and divergence
- 2010 - Entering a period of convergence?

(facilitated by) the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – connecting Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing

Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Programme (ESPA)
[NERC-ESRC-DfID]





CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

ARROW'S WIDTH
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong

Ecosystems and Human Well-being (MEA synthesis report, 2005)

Is wellbeing a bridging tool?

- Wellbeing frequently appears in development and sustainability policy e.g. the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, SD strategy UK 2005
- Development as 'responsible wellbeing' (Chambers 1997)
- The Happy Planet Index (NEF 2006)
- 3D wellbeing [ESRC Research Group WeD]
- 'Living well' (Sen) and 'living well together' (Deneulin and McGregor 2009)
- How are we to *live well together* in ways that are not only environmentally sustainable but are socially and politically sustainable also? (McGregor 2009)
- "How are we together to maximize human wellbeing?" (Scholes 2010/ESPA)

2. Why wellbeing in small-scale fisheries?

- ‘Urgent’ fisheries crisis – running out of fish
- 95% of the people engaged in some form of fishing in the world are SS-Fishers, 90% live in developing countries
- Policy development/ openings
- Intense clash between development and resource conservation goals
- ‘Freedom’ as Sen’s *goal* of development is *the problem* in Malthusian overfishing and Hardin’s commons tragedy (Jentoft 2010)



3. Three areas of contribution / key challenges

1. Divergent goals of fisheries development/ management [wealth generation, resource conservation or welfare function]
2. Understanding the *motivation* of fishers and how this influences their *behaviour*.
3. The challenge of recognizing heterogeneity in fisheries, and trade-offs between different wellbeing strategies.

3.1. SSF and divergent policy agendas

- Emergence of wealth-based approaches to fisheries management (rent maximization) (World Bank-FAO 2009; World Bank 2010, critique by Bene et al. (2010))
- Pressures to conserve resources (IUCN MPA Road map 2012)
- Welfare-based approaches – currently marginalized, and yet SSF play a critical role as a safety net / labour buffer



Can we start to think about fisheries development as the maximization of human wellbeing, through sustainable fisheries?

Necessitates greater consideration of access and entitlement failures:

A shift in attention from there not “being enough fish”, to “not having enough fish”...to “fishers being excluded from their own entitlements” (Sen, Leach et al, Bene)



Vs.



“In South Africa, nearly 15 years after the death of apartheid, small-scale fishers still do not have access to their traditional fishing grounds, and are being squeezed out ...” (Sunde 2008)



‘Marching for the right to live’
masifundise.org.za

3.2 Understanding the motivation of fishers

- How do people relate their wellbeing to fisheries in the context of *material*, *relational*, and *subjective* dimensions, and does this help explain fisher behaviour as being motivated by more than economic rationality or job satisfaction?

3D wellbeing, WeD research group

- Fishers exert a strong attachment to fishing
- more than a livelihood, “a way of life”

“fishers tenaciously adhere to their occupation even as catches
And incomes fall...it often puzzles fisheries managers and
economists who do not understand the non economic
satisfactions derived from the occupation”

(McGoodwin 1990, Pollnac and Poggie 2008)

- Subjective wellbeing in fisheries – job satisfaction (thrill of the chase, self-actualization)
- Clash with popular management strategies to promote “alternative livelihoods”

Example from the Indonesia and the Philippines (Sievanen et al 2005)

- Encouraged livelihood diversification from fishing, to seaweed farming
- Primary goal - to reduce fishing pressure
- Many of those involved moved back into fishing
- In many households the seaweed farms were tended by wives and children of fishers



3D Wellbeing – ESRC Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group:

Material dimension – income, fish to eat, fishing assets

Relational – household (wives), relationships with crew members, market actors,

Trust or obligation - 'Ye cannot say not to them (Delayney)

Subjective – (Pollnac) religious, power, ownership of own boat, thrill, self-actualization

Strong influence of relational wellbeing on fishing behaviour.

3.3 Heterogeneity in fisheries and wellbeing trade-offs

E.g. **Local – global trade off**

Ban of sea cucumber fishing in India, through CITES listing.

Increased wellbeing of international community through protecting a valued endangered species, but at a loss of wellbeing of fishers dependent upon sea cucumber trade.

Ignoring these tradeoffs can lead to conflict...



May increase wellbeing of the global community through protected ecosystem, but reduces wellbeing for vulnerable cucumber fishers

Conclusion – implications for fisheries governance

- Opportunity to build on momentum which **challenges wealth-based approaches** to human development, and apply this to a fisheries context
- Engage with **fisher's motivations**, aspirations and the strategies they adopt to pursue wellbeing, to build fisheries management that can support, rather than frustrate, these strategies
- Identification of **wellbeing trade-offs** and provision of platforms for debate to reach common agenda.
- Feed into a process of **interactive governance** (Kooiman et al)