Capacity Needs Assessment for Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in India

Using a Participatory Approach

Capacity development is a process through which people, organizations and society as a whole are enabled to shape their development and adapt it to changing conditions and frameworks

A capacity development needs assessment (CNA) process implemented with the aim of identifying the gap between the desired capacities and existing capacities of key stakeholders vis-à-vis sustainable management of MPAs in India

Approach and Methodological Framework

Three dimensions of capacity addressed during CNA:

- Enabling policy environment (system level)
- Cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder cooperation (institutional level)
- Competence of relevant stakeholders (organizational and individual level)

Capacity gaps at Individual level of key stakeholders were identified for skills, knowledge and values

The team conducting CNA consisted of forest, fisheries and Media experts, coordinated by the capacity development experts

Six STEPS of the CNA Framework

STEP 1: Conceptual analysis
of the situation, including
Stakeholder analysis, Problem
analysis, and identification of
capacity gap and possible
capacity development
interventions

STEP 2: Cross-sector dialogue workshop to integrate information and perceptions of the other sectors

STEP 3: Identification of data gaps STEP 4: Validation of conceptual analysis and plugging data gaps through field visits, interviews and workshops with stakeholders

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STEP 5: Developing a draft capacity development plan with possible scenarios

STEP 6: Validation of the capacity development plan with key stakeholders

What makes it work?

Components that lead to success

A truly participatory approach helped in receiving information in the most efficient way

Triple layered dimensions of capacity were captured, which helped in arriving at a holistic and complete picture of the capacity gaps and required strategy

A solution driven approach to implement the process, with greater flexibility in timelines and frameworks across sectors

Enabling factors

Availability of methods and expertise

Flexible methodology and timelines

Political support



