Making 'gender in fisheries' stick:
A strategic partnership of networks in the Lower Mekong Basin

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Introduction

- Research and communication – important elements for sustainable development
- Networks – promising forms for knowledge creation and dissemination
- Increasingly supported by international organizations
- Aim: To link research to policy, information to action

Networks

- Not new
- Information networks
  - Provide access to information; have rules; don't create new knowledge (ex. linked libraries)
- Informal networks
  - Created 'ad-hoc'; voluntary; little formal organization; advocacy and awareness; create new knowledge
- Formal networks
  - Created more slowly; well-defined themes; participation by invitation; constitutions
  - Open Networks (often limited to policy research)
  - Development Networks (application of knowledge)

Development and interaction between fisheries networks in the LMB

Year	Event	Network	Main Players/Key Objectives/Context
1997-2000	Establishment of national networks	NGFs	National fisheries agencies. Advocacy (improvement of status of women); addressing problems encountered by women.
1998	Initiation of discussions on RFB		LAs and NMCs; MRC/FP
2000	'MRC Gender Policy'; 'MRC Gender Strategy'		
2000	Establishment of regional network	(R)NGF	National NGF coordinators. MRC/FP
2000	Establishment of RFMB	TAB	Sustainable use of economic and nutritional potential of LMB aquatic resources; advice (JC); research; facilitation of cooperation
2002	Review and renaming of network	NGF	"Regional Network for Promotion of Gender and Women in Fisheries".
2004	Review and elaboration of work plan 2004-2006	TAB 1	Capacity-building; research; facilitation of information flow. Identification of 'regional concerns' ('gender equity' → governance principle). NGF 'observer status' at TAB Meetings.
2005-2006	Implementation of TAB-commissioned 'Gender Study'	TAB/ NGF	National networks and regional network; outside resource person ('compiler')
2007	Review and elaboration of work plan 2007-2009	TAB 2	Capacity-strengthening; creation of knowledge on regional management constraints; policy/strategy development and implementation. NGF full member of TAB.

TAB Gender and Fisheries Study

- Objectives
    - to raise awareness on gender and women in fisheries in the Lower Mekong Basin;
    - to provide the TAB with policy-relevant information to address issues of gender and fisheries; and
    - to strengthen NGF by engaging it in a collaboratively undertaken research activity
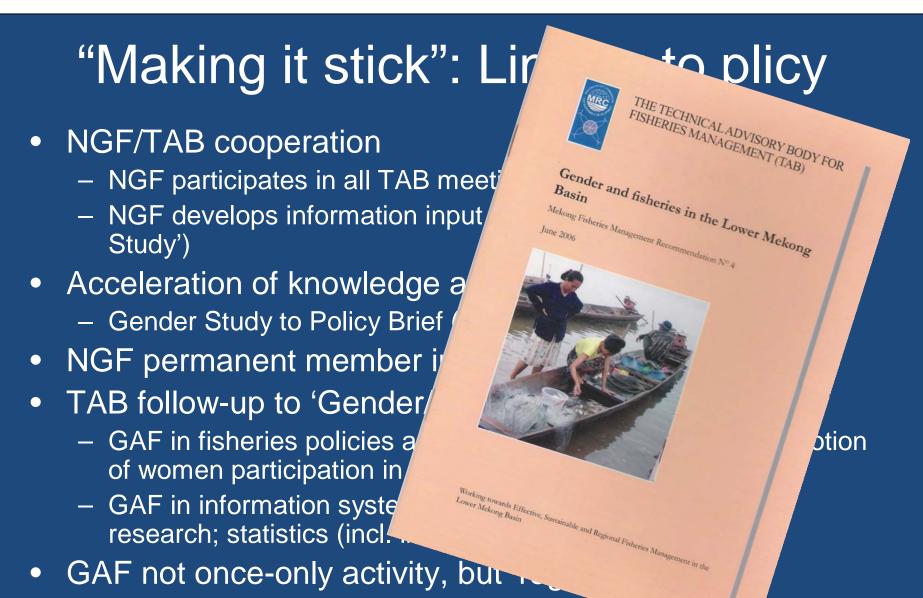
- Study Process and results
    - Data collection, compilation and discussion on national and regional levels
    - Existing and new information (update on gender participation in capture fisheries, aquaculture, fish processing and marketing; communication, technology dissemination and local knowledge; co-management)

'Regional gender and fisheries issues'
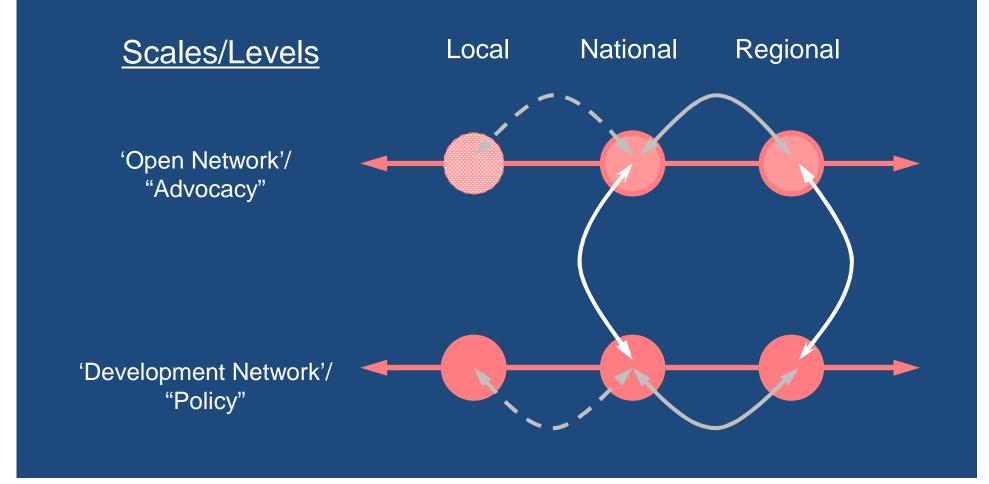
- Issues common to two or more riparian countries
- <u>Information</u> (research; monitoring; access to technical information/GAF in technical extension)
- <u>Policy</u> (GAF mentioned, but policies vague; lack of strategies and concrete ideas to address issues; as a consequence, no budget allocation; also, GAF remains responsibility of specialist groups, no gender mainstreaming)
- Creation of awareness, interest and *demand* for action by policy-makers in GAF and identification and lobbying of 'champions' (both regionally and nationally)

"Making it stick": Li____ ___ to plicy

- NGF/TAB cooperation
  - NGF participates in all TAB meeti____
  - NGF develops information input ____
    Study')
- Acceleration of knowledge a____
  - Gender Study to Policy Brief ____
- NGF permanent member i____
- TAB follow-up to 'Gender/____
  - GAF in fisheries policies a____ ____otion
    of women participation in ____
  - GAF in information syste____
    research; statistics (incl. ____
- GAF not once-only activity, but ____

THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY BODY FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (TAB)

Gender and fisheries in the Lower Mekong Basin

Mekong Fisheries Management Recommendation N° 4

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Working towards Effective, Sustainable and Regional Fisheries Management in the Lower Mekong Basin

Conclusions

- Network categories:
  - NGF, more an 'open network'
  - TAB, a 'development network'
- Network strategies – regionally coordinated, nationally implemented
- 'Natural life of networks':
  - Each network had its own development (from more restricted to wider approaches, but largely maintaining their degree of formalization)
  - Their interaction also changed (from a indirect to a direct relationship)
- Synergies:
  - Different network types have their place (advocacy; policy);
  - Important to identify synergies, linking an 'issue network' (Ex. NGF) to a 'policy community' (Ex. TAB)