



# **A Framework for Linking Poverty to Policy in the Post-Harvest Fisheries Sector**

**Project R8111:  
Poverty and Post Harvest Fish Utilisation in Ghana**

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## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS**

CCRF – Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

DFID – Department for International Development

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FishPHOM – Post Harvest Fisheries Overview Manual

HIV/AIDS – Human immunodeficiency virus / Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

IFAD – International Fund for Agriculture Development

NGO – Non-governmental Organization

PHFRP – Post Harvest Fisheries Research Programme

PHLAT – Post Harvest Livelihoods Analysis Tool

PHO – Post Harvest Overview

PPA – Participatory Poverty Assessment

PRS – Poverty Reduction Strategy

SLA – Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

UK – United Kingdom

UN – United Nations

# **A Framework for Linking Poverty to Policy in the Post-Harvest Fisheries Sector**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. This framework document outlines a set of relationships which link poverty to policy in the fisheries post-harvest sector. It is designed as a guide for policy makers and field practitioners to show the importance of the fisheries post-harvest sector, what linkages exist between poverty and policy in the sector, and why such linkages are important.
2. The framework document is designed to be useful at the national, regional and global levels by informing policy makers about how better to understand the post-harvest sector within a country and how poverty in the post-harvest sector relates to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other policy instruments.
3. It introduces two field tools that have been designed to help improve our understanding of the relationship between poverty and the post-harvest sector at national and local levels and use that information to inform policy. The tools are the Post Harvest Fisheries Overview Manual (FishPHOM) and the Post Harvest Livelihoods Analysis Tool (PHLAT)
4. This framework document is based mainly on work carried out under a project called "Poverty and Post Harvest Fish Utilisation in Ghana" (Project R8111). The research was funded by the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID) through its Post-Harvest Fisheries Research Programme (PHFRP) and was implemented in partnership with the Government of Ghana. The framework also builds on work that has been implemented specifically in India and Cambodia and more generally from a wide range of experience throughout the world.

## **THE POST-HARVEST FISHERIES SECTOR**

### **Understanding the Post-Harvest Fisheries Sector**

5. The post-harvest fisheries sector is very much under-represented in development policies and plans of most countries. In part this is due to post-harvest activities being poorly defined and differentiated from harvesting and culture activities: the lines between them are often unclear. It is also because post-harvest activities are often much more integrated with other, non-fisheries, activities such as general trade, transport, credit and consumption. The boundary between it and the rest of the economy are much less clear than, for example, the boundary between capture fishing and the wider economy. Perhaps one of the main reasons that it is underrepresented is that so little is actually known about the post-harvest sector, or at least that knowledge is rarely brought together in a systematic way and used in formal planning processes. Without such a systematic and informed approach to the sector it is difficult to know how to respond to the difficulties that the sector faces. In many countries the level of understanding of the sector is so low that the problems facing it have yet to be identified by those whose role it is to support the sector's development.
6. This situation is changing as the importance of the sector is being realized through its contribution to international trade and the resultant foreign exchange that this trade generates. Domestic food security issues are also raising awareness of the sector's importance.

7. One of the main problems facing the post-harvest sector is defining what we actually mean by it. Defining the post-harvest sector is difficult because post-harvest activities often start before the fish are landed on a boat or the shore as fish once caught in fishing gear and killed will start to undergo biochemical changes which affect its quality. Likewise at the other end of the post-harvest chain we have to consider the role of fish in food security and nutrition. In effect we are talking about what happens to fish from the time it is caught in the net or trap etc or is harvested from the pond until it is finally consumed or used for non-human consumption purposes e.g. animal feed.

### **The Importance of the Post-Harvest Fisheries Sector**

8. From the limited amount of information available we can begin to see the importance of the post-harvest sector. The post-harvest sector contributes significantly to the economies of many countries and to the livelihoods of people in those countries, some of whom are amongst the poorest. It is often difficult to separate this contribution from that of fisheries more generally because of the close linkages between the two and because of the lack of past focus on the post-harvest sector. To highlight the importance of post-harvest fisheries, the contribution it can make to national development objectives is discussed below.

#### ***Contribution to Employment***

9. It is estimated that globally there are about 35 million full-time and part-time people employed in primary production in fisheries (fishing and aquaculture). 85% of these are in Asia and 7% in Africa. Many are involved in some aspects of post-harvest activities, even if it is not their major focus of work. This figure has been steadily growing at an annual rate of 2.2% since 1990 (FAO, 2002). There are also estimated to be some 20 million people involved in small-scale processing, marketing and trading (McGoodwin, 2001). If the fishers, the secondary workers and ancillary workers, and their families are taken into account some 200 million people are supported by small-scale fisheries worldwide, of which at least 100 million depend on the post-harvest sector (McGoodwin, 2001).

#### ***Contribution to Food Security***

10. Worldwide over a billion people depend on fish to supply at least 30% of their animal protein (FAO, 2002). About 56% of the world's population derives at least 20% of its animal protein from fish. In 2000 the global production of fish was in the order of 130 million tonnes of which about 73% was from capture fisheries and 27% from aquaculture. Of this production, 74% was used for direct human consumption giving a global average annual food fish supply of 16kg per person (FAO, 2002). A third of the fish used for human consumption comes from aquaculture.
11. Fish production has been increasing at a higher annual rate than global annual population growth and so fish contribution to overall food security has generally been increasing. This observation must be balanced by localised variability in both supply and use. Fish supply in industrialised countries is now around 28.3 kg per person per year and 25.1kg in China. This is compared with 8 kg in Africa, 8.5kg in South America and 13.7kg in Asia (excluding China) (FAO, 2002).

### ***Contribution to Foreign Exchange Generation***

12. For some countries, especially those endowed with stocks of shrimp and other high value resources, export earnings from fish and fisheries products now constitute a major part of foreign exchange earnings. Global fish trade in 2000 was reported to be US\$55.2 billion and is growing at an annual rate of 4% (FAO, 2002). This trade growth is particularly important for developing countries, net export trade from these countries rose from US\$10 billion in 1990 to US\$18 billion in 2000. Thailand is the main exporting country with US\$4.4 billion worth of exports (FAO, 2002).
13. Developed countries imported 80% of the value of total fish and fish product imports with Japan being the main importer, accounting for 26% of imports (FAO, 2002). Most of the internationally traded product is processed in some form, much of it frozen.

### ***Contribution to Resource Sustainability***

14. Many of the world's fisheries resources are at or near the point where maximum sustainable yields can be harvested. For increases in supply the emphasis will have to be placed on resources that are currently under-exploited, such as offshore resources, on aquaculture, and on wild resource enhancement and better management of existing over-exploited resources. Whilst the potential in these areas is high there is also considerable potential to reduce pressure on existing supplies of fish by using those supplies more effectively. Much of the fish that is currently landed is landed in poor condition or it deteriorates quickly between the supplier and the consumer. There is much that can be done to ensure that the quality and value of these resources are maintained throughout the food chain thus ensuring that higher levels of benefits flow back to suppliers, traders, and processors.
15. Estimates of millions of tonnes of catch being discarded indicate that much valuable protein is lost each year from the fisheries of the world (Clucas & Teutscher 1999). Although major steps forward have been taken with the use of by-catch there is still potential for more effective use of these other smaller, lower value species for poorer consumers.

### ***Contribution to Poverty Reduction***

16. Perhaps one of the most important contributions of the post-harvest sector is its contribution to poverty reduction. FAO (2002) estimates that there are some 5.8 million fishers earning less than one US\$/day globally and a further 17.3 million in upstream and downstream activities such as fish processing, trade and boat building. As such the poor probably directly depend much more on the post-harvest side of fisheries than on the capture side. This is discussed in more detail below.

### **POVERTY IN THE POST-HARVEST SECTOR**

17. As noted above, the poor rely heavily on the post-harvest sector in fisheries. It is an easy sector to enter with few barriers to stop the unskilled engaging in activities such as labouring and petty trading. As such it often becomes a source of employment of last resort for many. On the other hand there are some activities in the fisheries post-harvest sector that are highly skilled and require considerable investment to enter. These might include fish processing, chilled ice transportation or freezing. These are often the most visible sides of the sector and can sometimes lead the casual observer to believe that there is limited poverty in the post-harvest side of fisheries.

18. However there are many people in the sector, who live in poverty, are vulnerable and who live on the margins of society. There are the many porters or fish carriers working at fish landings, processing sites and markets who carry fish around from place to place. There are the women who peel shrimp, or sort by-catch from trawlers. There are the people who dry small quantities of fish on the ground and sell them to other poor consumers. There are also the petty traders who buy a few fish here and sell them there for just enough to keep themselves alive from one day to the next. These often make up the majority of people in the post-harvest sector.
19. It is these people, and the many others that make up the bottom rung of the wealth ladder in rural communities that are the least advantaged and who need the most help. These people are also the most vulnerable to change because they have the least capacity, in terms of human, social and financial resources, to adapt and respond to the inherent risks of change. And for most fisheries around the world change is the dominant force operating. The livelihoods of all the people involved in fisheries are on the verge of, or are involved in, substantial change, stimulated changes in technology, in access to global markets, resources access, capital ownership, location of landings, transportation processes and consumer demand.
20. We may define the poverty of those involved in the post-harvest sector in terms of their calorific intake, their disposable daily income or in terms of some percentage of the national per capita annual income. Such definitions help us to visualise the size of the problem that we face in addressing national poverty. However, such measures rarely if ever reflect the reality of how the poor see poverty. They may perceive poverty in many different ways and we need to understand how they define poverty if we are to address it. For example, the poor in the post-harvest fishery sector may see poverty as being not only linked with low income but also the rising costs of inputs, depression, indebtedness, lack of access to health care and education for their children, poor health and lack of alternative income generating or employment opportunities (Ward et al 2004).
21. In spite of their poverty, these are also the people who have much to contribute if they are only given the chance. It has been said that "...a new strategic approach can be formulated and underpinned by more effective international economic cooperation, to unleash the potential of the poor and make it an engine of sustainable growth" (Jazairy *et al.*, 1992). One of the main challenges for the fisheries sector over the next ten years will be to realise the potential of the poor, especially through the post-harvest sector.
22. The Millennium Development Goals recognise both the position of such people in society and their potential. The Goals call for:
  - reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day to half the 1990 level by 2015, from 28.3% of all people in low and middle income economies to 14.2%;
  - halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015;
  - the eradication of extreme hunger;
  - the achievement of universal primary education;
  - the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women;
  - the reduction of child mortality;
  - the improvement in maternal health;
  - combating HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases;
  - ensuring environmental sustainability; and



- developing global partnerships for development.

The fisheries post-harvest sector has much to contribute to many of these goals. It has the potential to contribute to improving the livelihoods of the many poor people who depend upon it for employment and income. The sector has a high level of involvement of women and it provides opportunities for women that many other rural sectors do not. For women heads of household the post-harvest sector is particularly important. For example it can allow them to undertake or supervise household activities alongside post-harvest fisheries activities such as processing. The sector also provides much of the world's animal protein for the food security of the poor. The supply of fish to poor consumers plays an important nutritional role for those most vulnerable such as the very young and the sick. This is becoming more and more important in areas where HIV/AIDs is on the increase. The post-harvest sector also has a role to play in reducing pressure on natural resources and the environment through better use of existing supplies.

## **LINKING POVERTY TO POLICY**

### **Integrating Policy Areas**

23. The IFAD study on poverty in 1992 entitled "The State of World Rural Poverty" highlighted small-scale fisheries as a functional group of the poor. The report recognised policy as both a cause of poverty (through urban biases, through export oriented biases, through pricing policy biases, through subsidised capital biases, through technology biases, and through taxation biases) and as a tool for reducing poverty. IFAD recognised the need to harness the productive potential of the poor within a policy framework that was supportive of them. In its way forward, IFAD recognised that "The first step is to develop a clear understanding of who are the poor, the constraints they face, and the processes that engender and entrench their poverty".
24. Likewise, Agenda 21 emanating from the Earth Summit in 1992 on Sustainable Development recognised the direct link between poverty, the natural resources and management policy. It states that "While managing resources sustainably, an environmental policy that focuses mainly on the conservation and protection of resources must take due account of those who depend on the resources for their livelihoods. Otherwise it could have an adverse impact both on poverty and on chances for long-term success in resource and environmental conservation" (UN, 1992).
25. In 1999 the World Bank produced its *Comprehensive Development Framework*. This was designed to base national development and poverty reduction strategies (PRS) within a holistic approach to development and to seek better balance in policy-making by highlighting the interdependence of the social, structural, human, environmental, economic and financial elements of development as well as governance.
26. This is as important from a sectoral perspective as it is from a global one. Research into conflicts between economic, environmental and poverty-reduction policy areas in small-scale fisheries highlighted the need for a much more participatory and integrated policy process (Campbell and Townsley, 1996) but little progress has been made to achieve this.

### **Understanding Poverty in Relation to Policy**

27. All of these initiatives depend on strong micro-macro linkages for their success, policies that are not grounded in the realities of those they aim to

- help are unlikely to succeed. Likewise poor people who do not understand their potential in the wider development of the country are unlikely to contribute to that effectively. A key tool that aims to help forge those micro-macro linkages is the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA). PPAs have been carried out in numerous countries and are beginning to provide a much clearer understanding of the meaning of poverty in the eyes of the poor. Much of this understanding has gone into the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) that have been developed by the countries concerned.
28. Many of these PRSs have begun to show the level of complexity that the livelihoods of the poor exhibit, especially in terms of the interconnectedness of the sectors that the poor are involved in. Various methods have been used to understand this complexity and an emerging consensus is the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA). This has been developed over recent years to try to understand livelihood complexity and provide ways of responding to it. A key element of the SLA is an understanding of the policy-poverty linkages and generating responses to make these linkages more pro-poor. The SLA is gaining wide acceptance amongst development practitioners as a valuable approach to poverty reduction. It is essentially non-sectoral, recognising the holistic nature of many poor people's livelihoods and the need to understand and respond to those livelihoods in integrated ways.
  29. Whilst these efforts have addressed the wider aspects of poverty, few if any have specifically addressed the needs of people working within the fisheries sector. FAO (2002) states that "...the frequent lack of basic data on subsistence and small-scale fisheries, such as those in many inland waters, contributes to failures in management and policy-making directed at preventing over-exploitation, stock decline and exacerbations to rural food insecurity and poverty". FAO (2002) also notes that "...the continued levels of poverty in small-scale fishing communities ... require that all those concerned take a fresh look at the problem".
  30. The International Conference on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security, held in Kyoto, Japan, in 1995, recognized the importance of the post-harvest sector and the contribution of the small-scale producers and processors. It called for studies into the means for responsible post-harvest use of fish and fishery products, compatible with the policies for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture. But it also recognized the lack of knowledge about the sector and called for in-depth studies to be undertaken to assess the social, economic and cultural importance of fisheries and fishery products.
  31. MacFadyen and Corcoran (2002) discussed the policy implications of the lack of understanding of poverty in the fisheries sector and recommended "development of participatory poverty measurement methodologies in the small-scale fisheries sector...is a required precursor to more effective policy formulation".

### **Linking Approaches to the Post-Harvest Sector**

32. Whilst the SLA is a holistic approach that tries to encompass a much wider perspective of people's lives than just through the main sector in which they earn their living, it can and often does use a sectoral focus as an entry point into the lives of the poor. The DFID-funded and FAO-implemented Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Project based in West Africa operates in partnership with 25 countries and aims to reduce poverty in coastal and inland fisheries communities through the sustainable improvement of their livelihoods. The project directly applies the SLA to the livelihoods of poor

fisheries people. The project is using the SLA to both understand the livelihoods of the poor and to respond to their needs. It will not only generate direct benefits through its work in the region, but it will also generate normative guidance to inform the evolution of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).

33. The CCRF lays down a foundation for this, particularly through its aims and principles. The overall goal of the Code is to contribute to achieving **sustainable benefits from fisheries in terms of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world**. In so doing, the Code provides principles and standards applicable to the conservation, management and development of all fisheries. The CCRF lays down many of the ways in which these contributions can be achieved. Much of the CCRF relates to good practice in support of the sustainable livelihoods of poor people and it offers some sound advice for dealing with many of the above issues.
34. The CCRF also deals with the post-harvest sector and it provides some important guidance for the sector. However, at the time of its formulation the role of the post-harvest sector in poverty reduction was poorly understood. This situation is changing as new tools are being developed to inform and influence the evolution of the CCRF in the future.

### **Developing New Tools for Increased Post-Harvest Understanding**

35. The DFID-funded Post-Harvest Fisheries Research Programme (PHFRP) aims to reduce poverty through the generation and uptake of new knowledge and approaches that directly address the needs of the poor involved in the post-harvest sector. Two recent projects under the PHFRP have been specifically concerned with addressing the linkages between poverty and the post-harvest fisheries sector.
36. PHFRP project R7799, entitled “Changing Fish Utilisation and its Impact on Poverty in India” was concerned with understanding the broad changes that were occurring in the India post-harvest fisheries sector, what impact those changes were having on poor processors, labourers, traders and consumers, and what guidance could be provided for addressing the negative impacts of change. As part of the project an approach to describing the post-harvest sector from a macro-perspective, developed in basic form under the FAO-implemented Bay of Bengal Programme (see Campbell and George, 1998), was further developed into an analytical tool with a more poverty focus. This was used to produce five state-level overviews.
37. This tool was then taken forwards under PHFRP project R8111 entitled “Poverty and Post-Harvest Fish Utilisation in Ghana” and was developed into a manual for producing national level post-harvest overviews (Campbell and Ward, 2004). The *Fisheries Post-Harvest Overview Manual* (FishPHOM) grew out of a need to systematically understand and respond to the problems facing the fisheries post-harvest sector and particularly to respond to change in the sector. FishPHOM provides a systematic analysis of the sector, which enables priority areas of activities to be identified and combined to emerge as principles for intervention. This provides a sound basis for policy formulation, planning, research and institutional collaboration and cooperation. The manual was used in Ghana (see DoF, 2004) and in the subsequent Cambodia Post Harvest Fisheries Livelihoods Project, to generate national overviews of the post-harvest sector and the process of using the manual further helped to refine the FishPHOM process.

38. Whilst the FishPHOM provides an important macro-level framework for understanding the sector it does not provide a detailed understanding of the livelihoods of the different poor stakeholders involved in the sector. With this in mind, the PHFRP project R8111 also developed a livelihoods-based analysis tool which addressed the post-harvest sector from the perspectives of poor and vulnerable stakeholders, communities and local government. This *Post-Harvest Livelihoods Analysis Tool* (PHLAT) uses the sustainable livelihoods approach to understand the livelihoods of people involved in the fisheries post-harvest sector and places particular emphasis on the poor (IMM 2004). PHLAT complements and informs the use of FishPHOM, whilst FishPHOM provides the planning framework to implement PHLAT. These two tools are described in more detail in the next section.

## **USING FISHPHOM AND PHLAT**

### **FishPHOM**

39. The Fisheries Post-Harvest Overview Manual (FishPHOM) allows the post-harvest sector to be systematically analysed and understood in terms of its importance and the changes that are occurring within it. It also points practitioners in the direction of how to respond to those changes to maximise the contribution of the sector to policy objectives. By the post-harvest sector we also include the supply of fish, in part because fishermen engage in post-harvest activities onboard their boats, but also because the supply (in terms of how much fish, in what form, when, how often etc.) determines much of what can happen in the processing, trade, transportation and consumption of fish.

40. The manual specifically addresses the following areas:

- The significance of the sector to national policies and to the livelihoods of different stakeholders in the sector, especially for the poor;
- The current situation in the supply, transformation and consumption of fish;
- The changes that are occurring in the sector;
- The cause of those changes;
- The impact of those changes on policies and the livelihoods of different stakeholders;
- Current interventions in the sector;
- Development of an intervention strategy.

41. The output from using the manual is a Post-Harvest Overview of the fisheries sector that can guide policy makers and planners in how best to address the needs of the sector, especially the needs of the poor. This is designed to feed into such policy processes as Poverty Reduction Strategies. The focus on the livelihoods of the poor ensures that the policy options encourage linkages between the needs and aspirations of the weakest members of the sector with the wider goals of society, reflecting international development targets. Change is an important feature of post-harvest activities. FishPHOM helps identify key changes, the cause of these changes and the impact they are having on the poor. The Post-Harvest Overview (PHO) that emerges from the use of the manual should be seen as the beginning of an on-going process and the understanding developed should be updated on a regular basis as new information appears.

42. FishPHOM is a policy informing and planning tool for use by government as well as the private sector and other institutions and organisations active in the post-harvest sector, such as NGOs and community organisations. It is used to assist:
- Building capacity to understand and respond to the sector;
  - Creating an understanding of what is happening in the sector and how to respond to it;
  - Helping to formulate policy for the sector;
  - Identifying and targeting pro-poor interventions;
  - Guiding choices with regard to strategies which distribute benefits between social and economic groups in different ways;
  - Strengthening the ability of non-governmental organisations and fisherfolk associations to assist in the sustainable development of the sector;
  - Identifying information gaps that can be later filled;
  - Designing and implementing projects and development programmes.
43. The manual provides a narrative breakdown of the component parts of the post-harvest sector with examples to illustrate the different elements of it. It also provides a hierarchy of questions that can be used to guide the analysis of a particular topic. By working through the narrative and the examples, and using the questions to guide areas of enquiry, development workers can systematically uncover much of what is happening in their own post-harvest sector. It is not envisaged that all the questions should be answered, the manual attempts to cover all issues, but that does not mean that it has to be used in its entirety before useful information is generated. Parts of the manual can be used to address specific knowledge gaps. However, the manual is designed such that if information is gathered for each of the headings and sub-headings then the resulting document will provide a comprehensive description of the sector.
44. Application of the manual involves several stages: secondary data collection and review, followed by primary research, analysis and validation at the institutional and community levels. The aim is to develop an overview of the sector generated by stakeholders from within the sector and at all levels. The manual also aims to make the process inclusive and participatory, fostering ownership by the sector as a whole. The methods for generating the information for the Overview include the following:
- An institutional and stakeholder analysis;
  - Literature gathering and reviewing;
  - Interviews with key informants in the government, private sector, NGO and post-harvest communities;
  - Workshops to brainstorm with key partners in the government, private sector, NGO and post-harvest communities;
  - Field visits to verify information and cross-check sources;
  - Commissioning specific studies to address information gaps.

## PHLAT

45. The Post-Harvest Livelihoods Analysis Tool (PHLAT) is a research and planning tool which involves a process of consultation, analysis and validation that helps understand livelihoods and poverty as it affects post-harvest fishery stakeholders and provides information to help design, target and implement poverty reduction interventions (IMM 2004).
46. PHLAT is a systematic approach based on the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) and uses the SLA:
  - As a **framework** to identify a checklist of key issues relating to all aspects of livelihoods;
  - To **focus on people and the poor** in the sector;
  - To **understand linkages** between the lives of the poor and the wider influences of society, culture, political structures and process, and the private sector;
  - To **build on the strengths** of the poor *and the opportunities* that surround them;
  - To work *in partnership with the poor and local institutions* to identify options for intervention.
47. PHLAT is a process which involves a series of consultations with key stakeholders involved in the post-harvest fishery sector at regional (e.g. provincial/district), community and stakeholder groups. The understanding generated through this series of consultations is validated and developed into options for intervention.
48. Each stage of the PHLAT process involves several different steps and activities, such as workshops, semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. These are guided by a Post-Harvest Poverty & Livelihoods Checklist in combination with a sequence of participatory tools/methods adapted to help understand and discuss particular aspects of poverty and livelihoods.
49. More specifically PHLAT has been developed to help:
  - Identify who and where the poor and vulnerable are in the sector;
  - Understand different perceptions and key characteristics of poverty in the sector;
  - Understand and analyse the livelihoods of the poor in the sector;
  - Identify strengths, weaknesses of poor people's livelihoods in the sector and the opportunities and threats that affect them;
  - Raise awareness of poverty and the particular issues affecting the poor in the sector;
  - Identify development objectives for intervention in support of poverty reduction;
  - Provide information and direction to assist in the development of pro-poor plans and interventions;
  - Encourage involvement of the poor in wider decision making processes.

50. PHLAT helps *identify development objectives and pro-poor interventions*. PHLAT produces qualitative information and indicative quantitative information and draws attention to those issues which may be the focus of quantitative and statistically based research.
51. The PHLAT process provides local authorities, NGOs and other development practitioners with guidance on what the major strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are in respect of the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable post-harvest fisheries stakeholders in a particular area. The PHLAT process points development practitioners in the right direction in terms of development objectives and opportunities for pro-poor interventions that exist in an area. The development of detailed plans and initiatives to build on or address these issues being the responsibility of the concerned agencies.

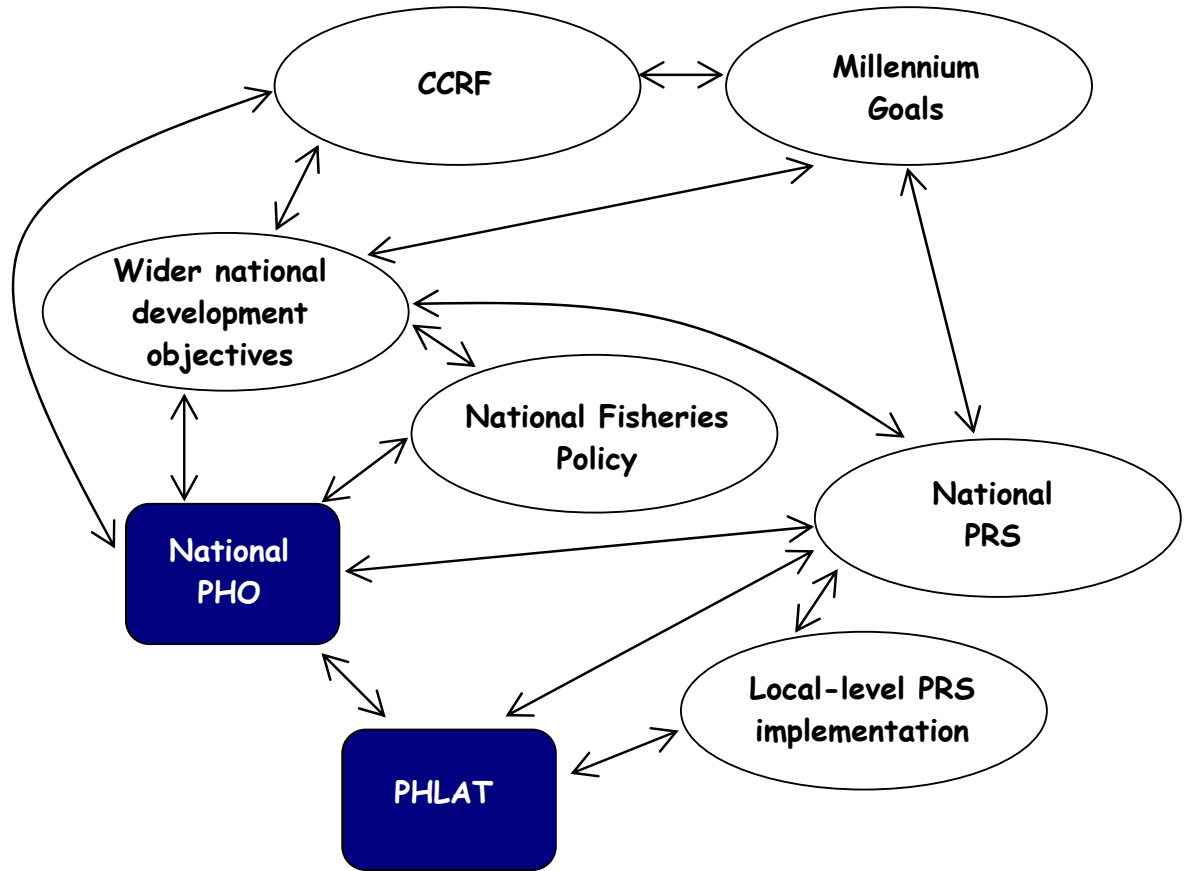
### **Linking the Micro to the Macro**

52. Whilst the PHLAT feeds into and is informed by the FishPHOM, these two are not isolated from wider policy processes and policy implementation activities. PHLAT is guided by the national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), particularly the national characteristics of poverty, poverty distribution, and the factors influencing poverty. In turn the PHLAT provides useful information about the post-harvest sector that can assist with the design and the implementation of PRS. In particular PHLAT feeds into local-level PRS implementation and into area-level plans and projects. It is a valuable tool for providing local knowledge about local problems for local interventions. It can also be a direct way in which government departments and other development practitioners can become actively involved in decentralisation processes.
53. FishPHOM also acts as a conduit for informing national PRS design and implementation and will eventually incorporate PHLAT information that is more generic and applicable to national planning. In turn PRS informs wider national development objectives, and is guided by them, and feeds in directly to the achievement of Millennium Goals. FishPHOM also provides an opportunity for Fisheries Departments to become actively involved in the planning and implementation of the PRS.
54. FishPHOM also feeds into national fisheries policy. This is becoming more important as the role of the post-harvest sector in both providing employment for those displaced from the harvesting sector and in ensuring the best use of the world's limited aquatic resources, becomes ever more critical. Whilst the post-harvest sector is still eclipsed by the production side of fisheries the wider development emphasis on secondary and tertiary enterprise development means that this must change. Likewise the linkages between wider national development objectives and PRS are becoming more pronounced in many countries. The current and potential role of fisheries in poverty reduction is raising the profile of the post-harvest sector because this has greater potential to contribute directly to poverty reduction in the short-term.
55. FishPHOM has a direct link into the CCRF. It uses the CCRF as a source of guidance in developing options and principles for intervention. The lessons learnt from the use of both FishPHOM and PHLAT are also a source of normative guidance for the evolution of CCRF. CCRF is mainly concerned with the effective management of fisheries but it also incorporates important sections on the post-harvest sector. The potential for a greater degree of guidance from the CCRF on the livelihoods aspects of the Code are large.

That these were not incorporated in the first version of the Code is, in part, a reflection of the lack of understanding of the livelihood aspects of the stakeholders in the sector at the time. FishPHOM and PHLAT can assist in the evolution of the CCRF to better reflect these aspects. This in turn will assist the CCRF to better respond to the Millennium goals.

56. These complex relationships between FishPHOM and PHLAT and the other policy instruments and processes are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: The linkages between PHLAT, PHO and major policy instruments at national and international levels**

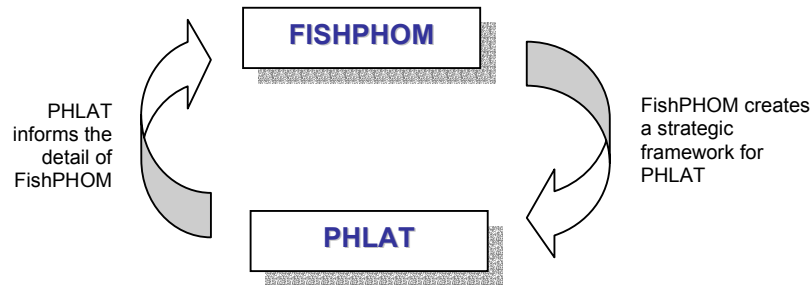


**How Should FishPHOM and PHLAT be Used?**

57. FishPHOM and PHLAT are independent, but linked, tools. FishPHOM provides the macro-level background for the sector and its strategic direction. PHLAT provides the detail of what is happening at the grassroots and where the poor fit into the sector. But FishPHOM can guide the use of PHLAT and PHLAT can inform and give detail to FishPHOM. These linkages are shown below in Figure 2.



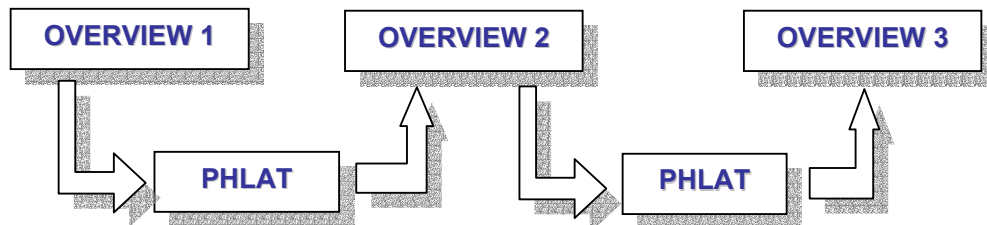
**Figure 2: The relationship between FishPHOM and PHLAT**



58. In practice it is likely that FishPHOM will be used first to get an overall picture of the post-harvest sector. This will then be complemented by some pilot PHLAT work that will give more detail to the Overview. For a really detailed account of the livelihoods of the poor in the post-harvest sector a large number of PHLAT studies will need to be carried out. The actual number will depend on the complexity and diversity of the sector and the resources available for the studies. This more detailed analysis might give way to revised versions of national level Post Harvest Overviews. In fact because both tools deal with change they will need to be used on a fairly regular basis to upgrade and update the detail of the work.

59. A more dynamic representation of how the tools are likely to be used is as shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: The operational relationship between FishPHOM and PHLAT**



**CONCLUSION**

60. The Fisheries Post-Harvest sector has not received the attention in the past that its role in employment, food security, foreign exchange generation, resource sustainability and poverty reduction would suggest it merits. In part this stems from a lack of understanding of that role. This is changing as we gain clearer insights into the sector and how it affects poverty.

61. The role of the post-harvest sector will become progressively more important as a mechanism for supporting the poor as the capture fishery moves towards greater mechanisation and towards more intensive fish farming.
62. This role links well into the dominant policy instruments at the international and national levels, such as the Millennium Goals, PRSs and the CCRF. To operationalise this role, however, we need to increase our understanding of the sector at the macro and micro levels. New tools are being developed that can address this need. FishPHOM helps to create a macro-level planning framework that is informed by the micro-level PHLAT. These two tools provide national administrations with ways of mainstreaming the post-harvest sector in national fisheries policies, decentralisation planning, PRS planning and implementation and national contributions to Millennium Goals. They will also help to inform and influence the evolution of the CCRF in the future.

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Agenda 21	<a href="http://www.unep.org/unep/partners/un/unced/agenda21.htm">http://www.unep.org/unep/partners/un/unced/agenda21.htm</a>
DFID's Post Harvest Fisheries Research Programme	<a href="http://www.nrinternational.co.uk/old_site.html">http://www.nrinternational.co.uk/old_site.html</a>
EASTFISH	<a href="http://www.eastfish.org/english.htm">http://www.eastfish.org/english.htm</a>
FAO	<a href="http://www.fao.org/">http://www.fao.org/</a>
Fishbase	<a href="http://fishbase.org">http://fishbase.org</a>
Globefish	<a href="http://www.globefish.org/">http://www.globefish.org/</a>
INFOFISH	<a href="http://www.infofish.org/">http://www.infofish.org/</a>
INFOPECHE	<a href="http://www.globefish.org/entry_infopeche.htm">http://www.globefish.org/entry_infopeche.htm</a>
INFOPESCA	<a href="http://www.infopesca.org/">http://www.infopesca.org/</a>
INFOSAMAK	<a href="http://www.globefish.org/entry_infosamak.htm">http://www.globefish.org/entry_infosamak.htm</a>
INFOYU	<a href="http://www.globefish.org/entry_infoyu.htm">http://www.globefish.org/entry_infoyu.htm</a>
Kyoto and food security	<a href="http://www.fao.org/fi/agreem/kyoto/H12F.asp">http://www.fao.org/fi/agreem/kyoto/H12F.asp</a>
Millennium Goals	<a href="http://www.developmentgoals.org/">http://www.developmentgoals.org/</a>
OECD	<a href="http://www.oecd.org/EN/home/">http://www.oecd.org/EN/home/</a>
Sustainable Livelihoods	<a href="http://www.livelihoods.org/">http://www.livelihoods.org/</a>
The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	<a href="http://www.fao.org/fi/agreem/codecond/codecon.asp">http://www.fao.org/fi/agreem/codecond/codecon.asp</a>
The Codex Alimentarius	<a href="http://www.codexalimentarius.net/">http://www.codexalimentarius.net/</a>
The Codex Alimentarius (fish components)	<a href="http://www.codexalimentarius.net/STANDARD/volume9/vol9_e.htm">http://www.codexalimentarius.net/STANDARD/volume9/vol9_e.htm</a>
UNCLOS	<a href="http://www.unclos.com/">http://www.unclos.com/</a>
UNDP	<a href="http://www.undp.org/">http://www.undp.org/</a>
UNIFEM and fish processing	<a href="http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/Projects/Haiphong.html">http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/Projects/Haiphong.html</a>
World Trade Organisation	<a href="http://www.wto.org">http://www.wto.org</a>