



MNA Knowledge and Learning

...Fast Brief



YEMEN/CHINA SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE: SYSTEMATIC MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS

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Introduction: In March 2010, a delegation of Yemeni decision makers and practitioners visited five cities in China: Fuzhou, Xiamen City, Xiangshan, Qingdao and Beijing. The Yemeni delegation was headed by Mr. Salem Ahmed Al-Khambashi, Governor of the coastal governorate of Hadramout, and comprised representatives from relevant central and local authorities, the Fisheries Cooperative Union and the private sector. The delegation's aim was to study the country's institutional arrangements for coastal zone management; to examine integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) arrangements, and the local economics of sustainable fishing. In view of applying the National ICZM Decree (2009), the delegation also sought to better understand the modalities, roles, policies and practices applied towards effective management of coastal zones and the fisheries sector in China.

The program was designed based on a needs assessment proposed by Chinese experts who visited Yemen in May 2009 to learn about the country's coastal system. The visit was a key component of the Yemen and China Knowledge Sharing on Systematic Management of Coastal and Marine Areas in Yemen, funded through a US\$150,000 Grant from a Multi Donor Trust Fund, the South-South Experience Exchange (SEETF).

Background: Yemen's 2,250 km coastline is stretched along the Red Sea on the west and the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea on the south. Fisheries are an important and promising sector,

which currently provides livelihoods to around 2 million coastal dwellers in Yemen. Generally, fishing is the only income generating activity for a Yemeni fisherman's family. However, fisheries production nowadays accounts for less than 2 percent of the country's GDP, and according to government statistics, fishing production in Yemen has been declining since 2006.² If properly managed, fisheries can become a major source of employment and income for poor coastal communities. Two main initiatives are currently in place to support Yemen's fisheries and coastal sectors, the IDA/European Commission-financed Fisheries Resource Management and Conservation Project (FRMCP, ongoing) and the Least Developed Countries Fund/Climate Investment Funds-financed Climate-Resilient ICZM Project (planned).

China as the Knowledge Provider: China has been identified by Yemen and the World Bank as a partner country due to its successful practices in sustainable coastal resources management, including fishers' income generation and targeted research capacity. For example, Xiamen in Southwest China has been recognized by the Global Environment Facility as a role model for applying ICZM through a zoning system that aims to make the city's development sustainable. China has established practical and functioning coastal management systems based on strong marine and coastal research. Finally, China benefited from the IBRD-financed China Sustainable Coastal Resource Development Project (closed in December 2007), which resulted in a strengthened commitment of central and local government to the sustainable development of China's coastal resources, and a radical change in the perception of local

¹ The team that worked on this SSEETF from the World Bank included Kanta Kumari Rigaud, Naji Abu Hatim, Song Li, Luis Constantino and Banu Setlur (all from MNSSEN). This Fast Brief is based in part on a Consolidated Visit Report prepared by Gamal Al-Harrani, World Bank Consultant. The Brief was cleared by Acting Sector Manager, Environment Francis Ato Brown.

² There are three possible explanations to this data: 1. the rapid increase in the number of artisanal fishing; 2. normal fluctuation in conjunction with possible effects of climate change; 3. Underreporting caused by the 2006 enactment of the Fishery Law which stipulates a government tax on fish sales.

governments of the value and importance of coastal zone management. This has had an important impact on seafood production, biodiversity and the restoration of livelihoods in China.³

Objectives of the Study Tour: The purpose of the Yemeni visit was to exchange knowledge between the two countries in the area of fishery and coastal zone management. The visit was designed around four key models for coastal zone and fisheries management: 1.) Sustainable management of resources at the province level; 2.) ICZM in coastal urban setting; 3.) Integrated coastal economies in fishing villages; and 4.) Application of science and research in decision making.

Thematic Lesson 1: Importance of Decentralization in Fisheries Management (Fuzhou): Located in Fujian province along the East China Sea, Fuzhou is famous for its fisheries resources and aquaculture production, producing more than 5 million tons of fish and significant amounts of aquaculture products annually, most of which is consumed locally. In Fuzhou, the Yemeni delegation learned from the local Department of Ocean and Fisheries (DOF) about its decentralized and wide mandate across the entire province's coastal zone as it relates to development, environmental protection, law enforcement, scientific dissemination, disaster management and resources utilization management. The delegation noted the importance of a well equipped local government in performing these functions (labs, coastal zone control center, surveillance and monitoring vessels).

Thematic Lesson 2: ICZM as a Driver for a Strong Urban Economy (Xiamen City): Located south of Fuzhou, Xiamen is an example of a strong urban economy that is based on the sustainable management of coastal resources. What in the past was a polluted city living off traditional fisheries and aquaculture is now a touristic site known as the second best city for living in China. In Xiamen, the delegation learned about the city's key ICZM principles: (i) zoning planning enforced by law, (ii) conservation and restoration of natural assets, including mangroves and wildlife, (iii) coastal zone planning and management supported by strong scientific research, and (iv) public participation.

Thematic Lesson 3: Integrated Coastal Economies and Local Ownership are Essential for the Success

of Fishing Villages (Xiangshan): Located to the north of Fuzhou, the focus of Xiangshan is on fishermen and the fishing economy through sustainable fisheries using traditional practices and focusing on income-source diversification. The Yemeni delegation learned about the county's key CZM principles: (i) using zoning which balances conservation with natural resource use, (ii) strategic management of fisheries and industrial processing, including tax exemption to fishers as a measure to encourage sustainable fishing practices, and (iii) promotion of tourism and fishery culture with strong local ownership (currently 60% of fishermen do not practice fishing).

Thematic Lesson 4: Science Should Receive a Central Place in Decision Making and Business Development (Qingdao Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute): The Institute employs 200 scientists who conduct research on coastal and marine resources and on mariculture. In addition to the scientific input it provides to policy makers, fishermen, and the business community, it also offers training and academic education for postgraduate students and practical training to fishermen. The Yemeni team visited a number of laboratories and held discussions with researchers. The lesson learned during a visit to prawn and fish farms was on the importance of applying high environmental standards.

Additional Lessons Learned: Feedback from the Yemeni delegates highlighted a number of additional important lessons learned from the visit to China:

- Tax exemption to fishermen, set by law and enforced by government, can reduce income loss without depleting fishery resources;
- Registration and licensing for fishermen, boat owners and traders is useful to regulate and sustain fish catch;
- The importance of sound and effective surveillance and monitoring system through government and research institutions in resource management;
- Using fish stock assessments to determine fishing seasons, combined with a compensation system for fishermen is effective in enhancing fish stock, especially commercially important species

³ Source: Implementation Completion and Results Report, IBRD-43220

Next Steps: The delegation members and their Chinese counterparts made the following key suggestions to further enhance the relationship between China and Yemen with respect to sustainable fisheries and coastal zone management:

- Establish a realistic and effective bilateral relationship through a framework/memorandum of understanding;
- Open Chinese and Yemeni markets to fish products coming from both countries;
- The Ministry of Agriculture of China will help and encourage Chinese fish processing companies to establish direct relationship with Yemeni companies;
- China to provide long- and short-term training to Yemeni specialists and workers in the field of fish wealth.

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