Developing capacity in the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture Management (EAAM)

Practical tools

Policy briefs

What are policy briefs?

A policy brief is:

1. a **concise summary** of a **particular issue**

2. It is the **policy options** to deal with it,

3. and some **recommendations on the best option**.

*It targets government **policymakers** and others who are interested in formulating or influencing policy.*

How big it is?

- A typical format is a **single A4 sheet**, containing perhaps 700 words.
- It has an **attractive design**, and may have **one or more photograph**.

- ***Remember that…***
- *Policymakers are <u>busy people</u>, and are probably <u>not</u>*
- *<u>specialists</u> in your area.*
- *They are likely to read only something that…*
  - *Looks attractive*
  - *Appears interesting*
  - *Is short and easy to read.*

Timing

- find out when **national/local government meets to plan new or authorize existing legislation**. Be aware of electoral campaigns you can make use of.

- Be constantly on the l**ookout for windows of opportunity**

Language to use

- you must **use official language** to be understood by policy makers (though not too technical).

- **Refer to laws/decrees**, etc. with their full titles.

- Use **the official language of national government** (in countries with more than one national language, ensure you have policy briefs for each key language).

What does it contain?

The policy brief should consist of the following three sections with a clear, logical connection between them

1. **Statement of the problem**: One to two sentences. Explain why the policy brief has been written.

2. **The EAAM argument**: This should not include details.

3. **The developmental implications** which need to be understood and taken up by development

3. The developmental implications

This part contains ecological, socio-economic and governance implications, as well as related policy implications

Here make it clear:

1. **what action** must be taken by **which institution/agency**

2. **Recommendations** must include specific, realistic actions

3. The **policy implications**

Essential EAAM

To download all materials please see