Social Dimensions of MPAs

Small-scale fishing community perspective:

Case studies from six countries

Study Objectives

- provide an overview of the legal framework for, and design and implementation of, MPAs

- document and analyze the experiences and views of local communities, particularly fishing communities, with respect to various aspects of MPA design and implementation; and

- suggest ways in which livelihood concerns can be integrated into the MPA programme of work, identifying, in particular, how local communities, particularly fishing communities, could engage as equal partners in the MPA process.
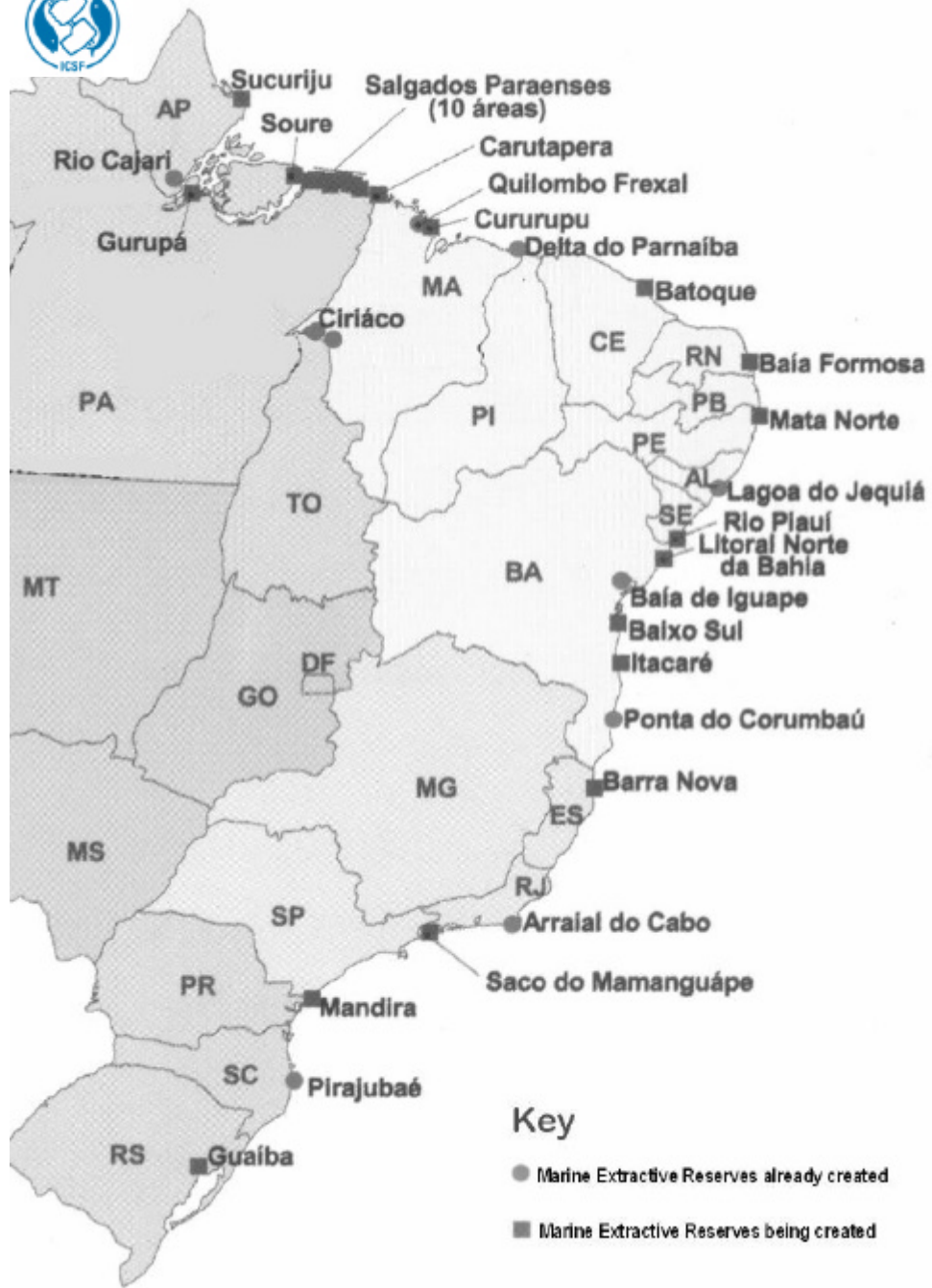
Six country case studies

BRAZIL

- MER Mandira (Sao Paulo)
- MER Corumbau (Bahia)
- MER Arraial do Cabo (Rio de Janeiro)

Left map labels:

Sucuriju
AP
Soure
Salgados Paraenses (10 áreas)
Rio Cajari
Carutapera
Gurupá
Quilombo Frexal
Cururupu
Delta do Parnaíba
MA
Batoque
Ciriáco
CE
RN Baía Formosa
PA
PI
PB
Mata Norte
PE
AL Lagoa do Jequiá
TO
SE Rio Piauí
Litoral Norte da Bahia
BA
Baía de Iguape
MT
Baixo Sul
Itacaré
DF
Ponta do Corumbaú
GO
Barra Nova
MG
ES
MS
RJ
SP
Arraial do Cabo
Saco do Mamanguápe
PR
Mandira
SC
Pirajubaé
RS
Guaíba

Key
● Marine Extractive Reserves already created
■ Marine Extractive Reserves being created

Right map labels:

AP
MA
PA
CE
RN
PI
PB
PE
AL
TO
Brazil
SE
BA
Atlantic Ocean
MT
DF
GO
MER Corumbáu
MS
MG
ES
RJ
SP
MER Arraial do Cabo
PR
MER Mandira
SC
RS

■ Marine Extractive Reserve

SOUTH AFRICA

Five MPAs in 3 of SA's 4 coastal provinces:
- Langebaan Lagoon MPA
- Maputaland MPA
- St Lucia MPA
- Tsitsikamma MPA
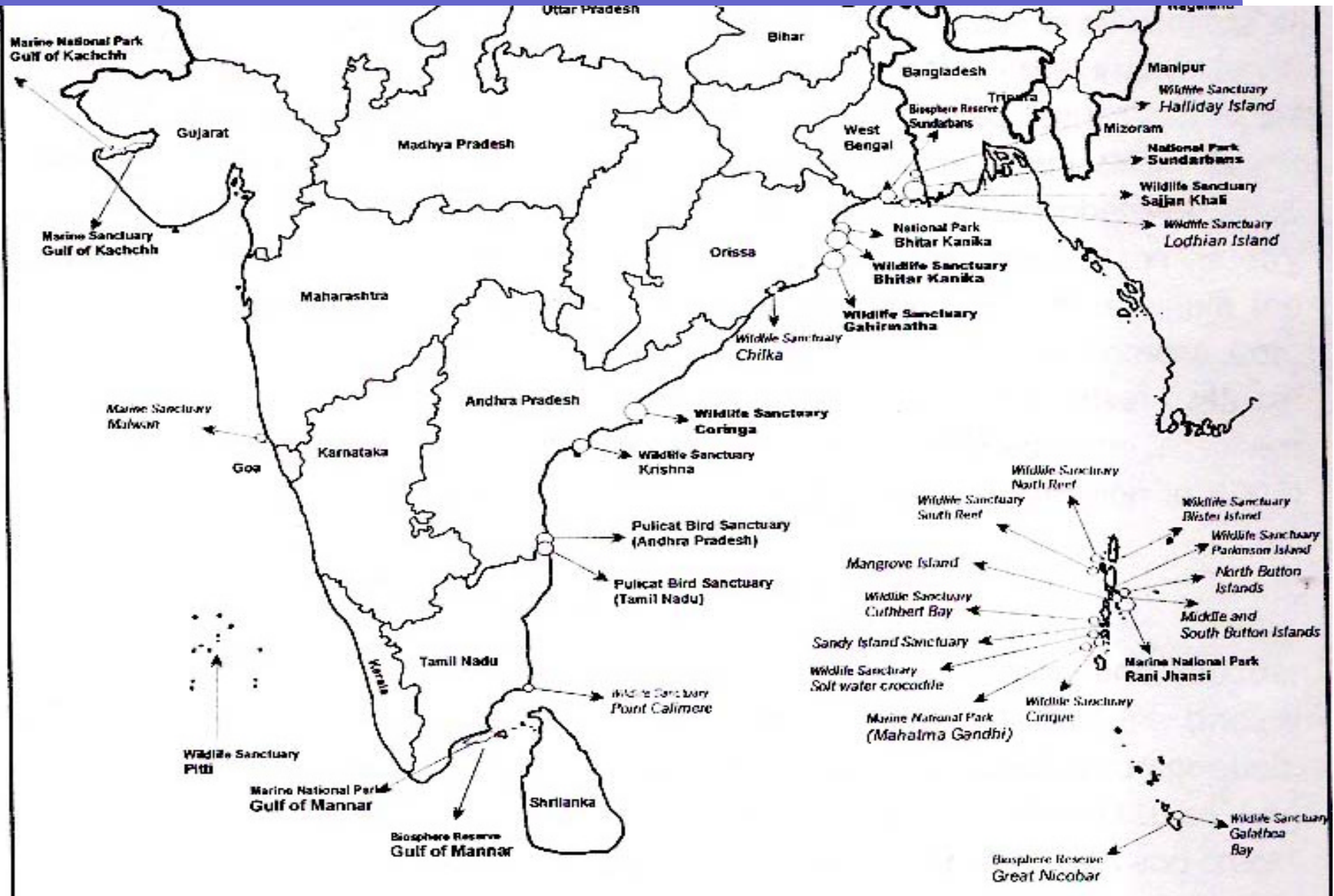- Mkambati MPA

TANZANIA

? Mafia island marine park (MIMP)

INDIA

- Gulf of Mannar National Park (GOMNP) and Biosphere Reserve (GOMBR), Tamil Nadu

- Malvan (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra

INDIA: MPAs

THAILAND

- Had Chao Mai Marine National Park, Trang Province, Andaman Coast Thailand

- Ra Island – Prathong Island, Prathong Sub- District, Kuraburi District, Phang Nga Province, Andaman Coast

EXPERIENCES SHARED FROM:

- Galicia, Spain

- Brittany, France (Iriose MPA)

- Indonesia: 5 National Parks in Sulawesi and Komodo-NTT (Wakatobi MNP, Togian MNP, Taka Bonerate MNP, Bunaken)

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROCESS

- The most positive examples are where community initiatives have been supported: Brazil, France and Spain.

- Communities are using MPAs (MERs in Brazil) as a tool to protect their livelihoods (against shrimp farms, tourism, sport fishing, oil pollution…). Process takes time.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROCESS

- These initiatives are breaking the *de facto* open access regime in the sea, creating a "new commons" where coastal communities have the responsibility for management;

- Issues remain (as in Brazil, about capacity building of government functionaries and communities, funding, lack of strong community/ fishworker organizations, integration of scientific and traditional knowledge)

EXTERNALLY-IMPOSED PROCESSES

- In case studies from Tanzania, India, SA, Thailand and Mexico communities do not consider themselves equal partners in the process. Participation, where present, is instrumental. Not part of the process of designing and implementing management initiatives.
- Some recent efforts undertaken to enhance community participation; not fully effective
- There have been clear costs for communities—costs in terms of livelihood options lost, expulsion from traditional fishing grounds and living spaces, in violation of human/ community rights, with few perceived real benefits.

EXTERNALLY-IMPOSED PROCESSES

- Alternative livelihood options perceived to have provided limited support to affected communities. In several cases (in Tanzania, SA, Thailand), communities do not perceive that they benefit at all from tourism initiatives associated with the PAs

- There is resistance to the MPA among local communities, violations of rules and regulations, undermining the effectiveness of the MPA itself.

- There is mistrust of government and of NGOs leading such processes

EXTERNALLY-IMPOSED PROCESSES

- Legal framework to support community rights to manage resources need to be put in place/ strengthened
- Capacity building of both governments and communities, strengthening of local organizations needed (Programme element 2 of the PA POW)
- Issues of institutional coordination need to be addressed, particularly the role of fisheries departments/ regulation in PAs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Independent studies are needed to study MPA processes from the community-end. There are few studies on social dimensions of MPA implementation, and these are mainly by those promoting MPAs
- Where clear examples of violations of community rights, and unjust costs on communities are identified, easily accessible redressal mechanisms need to be put in place, nationally, and internationally

THANK YOU