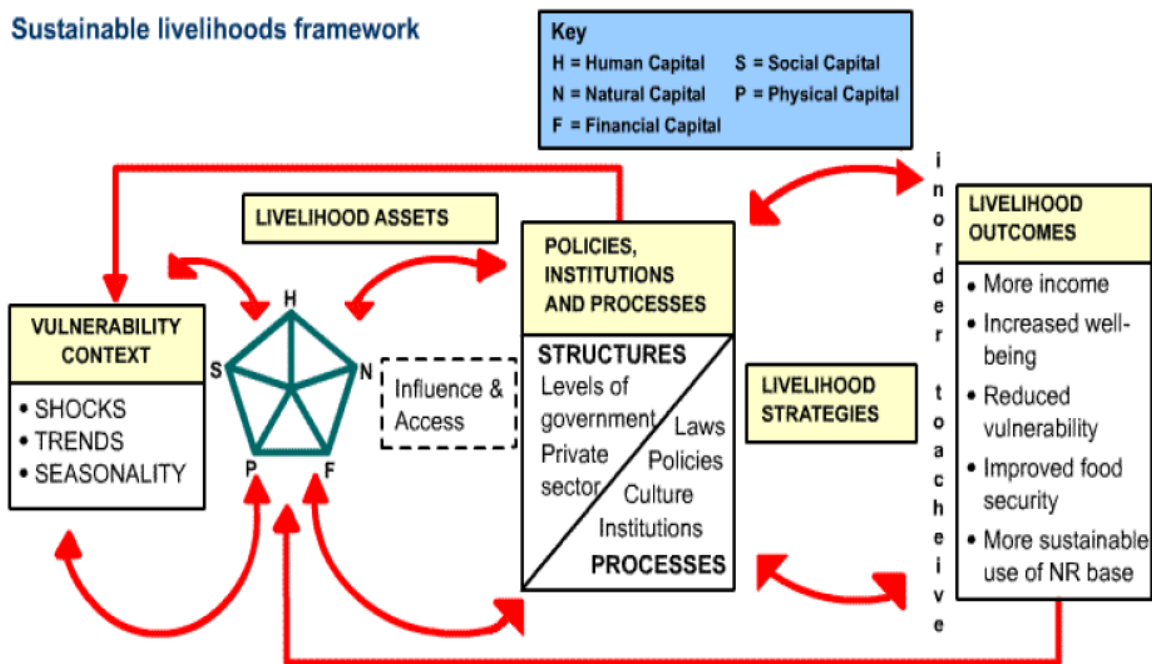




# 1. Using the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

## Introduction

### Sustainable livelihoods framework





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The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) helps both facilitators and planners, as well as people in communities, to better understand the different factors that affect the livelihoods of different people.

In this approach, “livelihoods” is defined broadly to include all the different elements that people make use of or are influenced by in creating a means of living for themselves and their families – a livelihood is **not** just about income-generating activities.

The SLF is a form of social analysis that can be used to help understand a community’s situation and provide holistic information about a community, through cross analysing “sustainable livelihoods” and defining the asset base of livelihoods from the household to the community level.

The household is the basic economic decision-making unit in rural society. It is essential to understand householders’ livelihood strategies in order to make sense of what they are doing and understand how they perceive opportunities for change.

#### A Definition of Sustainable Livelihoods

“A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain and enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels in the long and short term.”

- Chambers, R. and Conway, G. 1992. *Sustainable rural livelihoods: practical concepts for the 21st century*. IDS Discussion Paper 296. Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton



## 1. Using the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

### Terminology

*A **household** is a group of people who live and eat together and typically engage in joint economic activity. This group is usually based on kinship, and in Indonesia is normally comprised of the nuclear or extended family.*

The RTC participants should answer the questions below in order to collect information and understand the situation of a coastal resource dependent community before carrying out the field study exercise.

Here is a checklist to help you with 'livelihoods thinking' for this exercise.

1. What are the householders' livelihood objectives? What do they actually hope to accomplish? (*For example, some households might want to produce all their own food, whilst other might prefer to grow cash crops and buy their own food*). What problems do they have in meeting these objectives?
  2. Would they be willing to consider other ways of achieving their objectives, for instance by adopting new technology? Would other objectives also be acceptable to them, such as cash crop surplus rather than subsistence sufficiency? What problems would they encounter in pursuing the new objectives?
  3. What resources (land, labour, capital, etc) does the household have? What resources do they need to make a decent living? Do they have enough? What problems do they have concerning access to resources?
  4. How will it affect their access to resources? Will it help them solve their livelihood problems or will it create more problems for them? How could these new problems be solved?
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5. What appropriate technologies do they have? What new technologies have they adopted? What can be done to improve the existing technology? What new technologies are they already experimenting with?
  6. Do they have the technology needed to do it? Would they be interested in trying it? What kinds of training and other support would be needed for them to be able to adopt it?
  7. What indigenous knowledge do they have? What traditional values and beliefs are associated with this knowledge? What opportunities and limitations does this imply?
  8. Does it make use of their traditional knowledge? Does it challenge their values? How can new ideas be adapted to fit their knowledge system and values? Are they interested in acquiring new knowledge through training, study tours, etc?
  9. What is their existing livelihood strategy? What problems do they have in pursuing this strategy? What is their strategy for solving existing problems? Would they be interested in other strategies for achieving their objectives (other technologies, new land entitlements, new market opportunities, etc.)?
  10. How does it relate to their existing strategy? Is there a way to integrate the old with the new so that the new does not seem completely unfamiliar? How can you build on their existing strategies? How could the existing strategies be adapted to take advantage of new opportunities?
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## 2. Community Participation in Coastal Resources Management

In order to collect data on people's perceptions of their livelihoods, various participatory approaches can be used. Many of the tools that have been used in livelihoods analysis come from approaches developed for participatory development and Participatory Rural Appraisal, because these tools are particularly appropriate for working in a “people-centred” manner.

Initial discussions with community group members are a good first step towards encouraging participation from family members and neighbours as well. Participatory activities do not have to be limited to verbal discussion, but can also include pictorial representations drawn by the people. A checklist is provided below to ensure that key pre-determined topics are covered, but this checklist does not have to be followed strictly, and only represents general guidance.

The community members should be encouraged to lead the discussion and, in this way, the facilitator should be able to discover what issues are considered to be most important by the community members themselves. Additional information included in the report will come from follow-up discussions with people. This includes discussions that would have occurred during regular meetings and information collected during the intensive exploration phase. Participatory tools should be applied with the right attitude, allowing communities to drive the process, as well as understand and have ownership of the analysis.

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## 2. Community Participation in Coastal Resources Management

The participatory approach to development has the underlying principle that the key stakeholders (and especially the proposed beneficiaries) of a policy or intervention are closely involved in the process of identifying problems and priorities and have considerable control over the related activities of analysis, planning and the implementation of solutions.

**Note:**

- Remember that this approach is NOT the “only way” and represents guidance – this is not a formula for understanding communities.
  - The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework is not just a tool for data gathering, but it is an empowerment process that should also allow communities to express and define themselves.
  - Good community information is extremely important to any livelihoods intervention decision making process, and vital in order to reach marginalised households and improve their quality of life.
  - Participatory tools represent methodologies that combine different approaches to engaging with communities in a manner which allows them to drive the process, allowing them to appraise and analyse their realities, and formulate realistic activities based on local needs.
  - The process has to place community empowerment in the forefront, involving the community fully in all steps to understand and improve their quality of their lives based on livelihood strategies.
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## 2. Community Participation in Coastal Resources Management

Here is a checklist to help you with 'participatory approaches thinking' for the exercise.

1. What are participatory approaches? What is the advantage of using these in contrast to other methods? Do participatory approaches have limitations? If so, what are these?
  2. What are the principles of participatory approaches? Who applies them? Who participates in them?
  3. Who are the participants who should be involved in participatory approaches? What are the roles of the participants? Who should facilitate participatory methods? What is the role of the facilitator? What sort of attitude should the facilitator have?
  4. Could you explain how participatory approaches are applied? What tools can be used to apply participatory approaches? Identify appropriate tools to gather information and apply processes of community empowerment, especially to marginalised people (households) in coastal areas.
  5. How do these participatory approaches contribute to livelihood analysis and support the sustainable livelihood approach? Discuss what kind of tools will be used, and how to apply them.
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## 2. Community Participation in Coastal Resources Management

6. Where can participatory approaches be implemented (e.g. at what level, using what institutions and organisations)? How much time is needed to conduct participatory analyses with the community?
7. How can livelihood/social analyses be carried out with the community, especially to analyse the livelihood assets of the community?
8. How would you identify and determine the livelihood strategies of households (the community) using participatory approaches?
9. How would you analyse the main problems faced by a community based on an understanding of community livelihood assets? →

Remember the vulnerability context and political issues/influences on livelihood assets.

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### 3. Using Community Profiling to Support Coastal Resources Management

Using the checklist of questions above to develop an understanding of sustainable livelihoods and community participation, you should be able to develop a picture/profile of a typical coastal community based on your own knowledge.

This exercise uses the principles and tools presented in the previous two exercises to allow you to formulate a more in-depth understanding of community livelihoods.

Here is a checklist to help you with the 'community participatory approaches thinking' for the exercise.

1. Identify the livelihoods of a community in a coastal area. What does the community look like? How do the occurrence of different types of livelihoods in the community influence day to day life?
2. Identify external factors (e.g. legal issues, institutional issues or political process issues) that have a strong influence on community livelihoods (especially a household's livelihood assets) in the coastal area. What regulations/laws may influence community livelihoods?

Which factors could protect/support community livelihoods, and which factors may pose limitations or challenges to community livelihoods? Could you provide an example of a situation where a community could benefit from a situation involving such an external factor? What kind of planning can a community do in order to deal with such factors?

Which persons/groups/institutions can be seen to support sustainable community livelihoods? Which persons/groups/institutions contribute to weakening community livelihoods?

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### 3. Using Community Profiling to Support Coastal Resources Management

3. Identify a vulnerability context that could impact community livelihoods in coastal areas. What livelihood opportunities exist for the community?

Could you identify potential threats to their livelihoods that could arise given resource and environmental management issues?

Could there be conflicts between sustainable resource/environmental management and community livelihoods activities?

Could you identify what the community could do in order to identify opportunities and improve their livelihoods?

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