

## **DISCUSSION THEME: LOCAL LEVEL MANAGEMENT**

1. The Group agreed that the sustainable local management of small-scale fisheries resources requires legal, practical and community based prerequisites. The decentralized and shared management would have to be adopted through a clearly defined national fisheries policy formulated by consulting all stakeholders.
2. In deliberating on the legal requirements, it was confirmed that the policy should be supported by a legal framework that authorizes regulatory powers. The other legal elements identified were ;
  - empowerment of fisherfolk to formulate bye-laws and regulations
  - judicial recognition of local institutions and structures
  - devolution of enforcement authority to community structures
  - legal protection of landing sites and delineated fishing grounds
  - legal recognition of the role of women and other shore based workers
3. The Group concluded that putting the local management into practice would require capacity building for the fisheries communities and institutions to actively participate in the partnership with the administration. The capacity acquired would have to be accompanied by these factors ;
  - economic sustainability ensured by human and financial support
  - gender mainstreaming at all levels and women authorized to freely express opinion
  - frequent consultation of communities with simplified processes
  - recognition of political process
  - right attitudes in respecting local knowledge
  - Government should have the capacity to communicate with fisherfolk
4. The group also reflected on the conditions in the communities that will make the local management feasible. It was suggested that the local institutions should be strong with clear roles and responsibilities. Their networking and empowerment would have to be facilitated. Conditions should also be favourable to apply effective participatory approaches that can use knowledge and information on the state of the resources, which is the foundation of the local management. There will also be a need for promoting equity in the financial returns and commercial value of the fisheries resources.