

POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE MAKING OF FUTURE FISHERIES IN THAILAND:

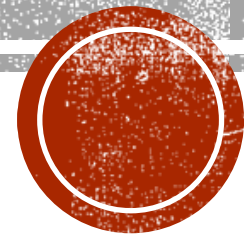
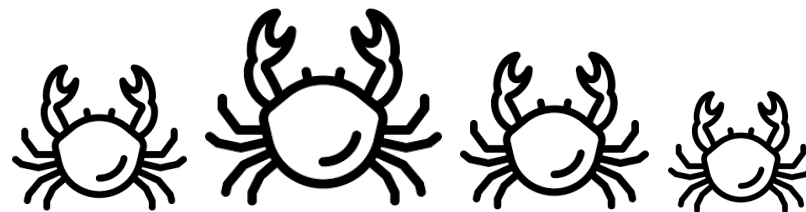
IMPLEMENTATION OF A CRAB BANK IN THUNG NOI, PRACHUAP
KHIRI KHAN PROVINCE

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INTRODUCTION

- Thailand had been the number 1 crab products exporter in the world since 1984 – 2002 (FAO, 2007, cited in Tanasomwong, 2013; p. 1).
- In 1984, Thailand exported crab products for 5,200 tons, with 34.5 million US dollar.
- In 2004, crab products export had increased to be 10,200 tons, with 126.3 million US dollar.

INTRODUCTION

- Due to overfishing, the amount of crab had been decreased since 1999. For example, in 2004, 29,500 tons of crab were caught, whereas, it had decreased to be 22,800 in 2010 (Arkronrat, et. al., 2013; p. 30 - 31). Moreover, the size of caught crab had also decreased, from 14.41 cm. of average width in 1977, to 8.45 cm. of average width in 2002. (Tanasomwong, 2013; p.1)
- Even the Department of Fisheries had been executing regulations to preserve, restore, and manage marine resources, by conducting researches, releasing fish, building fish houses, controlling fishing under the laws, and suppress the illegal fisheries. However, the fish stocks were still decreasing. One of the vital reasons is the lack of community participation (Tanasomwong, 2013; p. 2)

INTRODUCTION

- In 2002, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) had begun Crab Bank Practice in Chumphon province, Thailand (Suanrattachai, et. al., 2009; p. 24).
- Since 2007, Department of Fisheries has been supporting the pilot fisheries communities doing marine resources preservation and/or restoration activities, which the most popular one was crab bank. In 2012, there were 95 communities involved, 69 of them manipulated Crab Bank (Tanasomwong, 2013; p. 7).
- Right now, the Department of Fisheries is in the process of expanding Crab Bank Practice to reach 500 total communities.

THEORY



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Degrowth



Green Growth

THEORY Politics of Knowledge

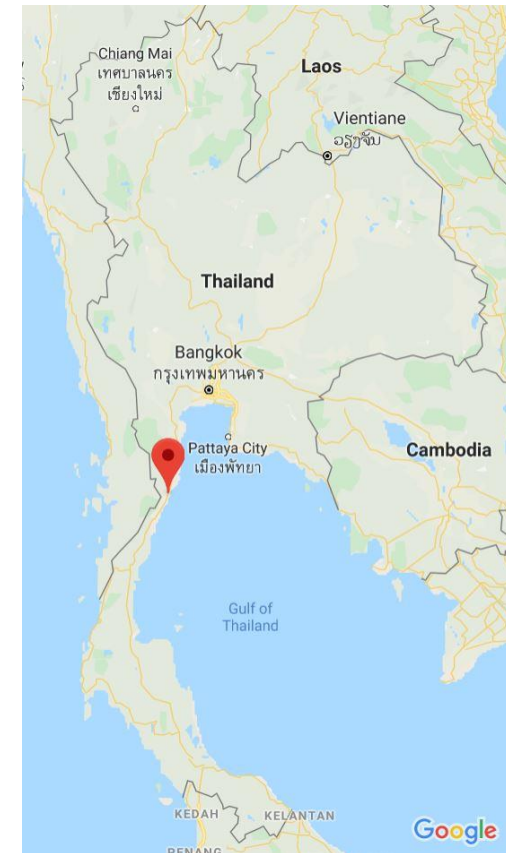
- Knowledge is socially constructed and embedded in social systems
- Various actors with different perspectives, interests and knowledge systems interact and engage in discourses
- Narratives and framings shape the future
- Whose knowledge counts? knowledge - power
- Transdisciplinary research: empowering community knowledge (Local Ecological Knowledge, Thai Baan Research)
- Questioning the dominant narratives

METHODS

- Field research from 23-25 October 2019 in Thung Noi fishing community
- Focus group discussion with
 - community leader
 - local government official (fishery department?)
 - two representatives of two other fishing communities
 - students from Chulalongkorn University Bangkok
- Key topics: crab bank implementation and sustainability
- Complemented by participatory observation and background interviews

CASE STUDY - Crab Bank

- Promote environmental sustainability
 - Improve the ecological sustainability
 - Maintain the common of people
- Internal local participation
 - A media to demonstrate the actual action
 - Extend the livelihood
- External engagement
 - A “weapon” to fight for political support
 - Display the efforts that the locals are trying



PRACTICE of Crab Bank

- Main task: revive the reproduction rate of **blue crab**
- Wish to run as a self-sufficient **business model**



ANALYSIS

- Local knowledge
- Various stakeholders
- Top-down policy
- Bottom-up power
- Transdisciplinary research

WHOSE KNOWLEDGE COUNTS?



POTENTIAL SOLUTION

The major issue that was identified and emphasised by Khun Piya was the economic sustainability of the Crab Bank

Cost of 230,000 THB per month to operate

Under the 3-year plan to support crab banks, government offered initial support through investment in infrastructure

- Piya started this bank with his own funds and donations; money only lasted 3 days
- Currently rely on donations from: MAST, K Village and his supply company

→ However, the cost of operation needs to be addressed to ensure economic sustainability

HOW?

Market-Based Instrument: Payment for Ecosystem Service

What is PES?

Payment made by 'Buyers'
to 'Providers'

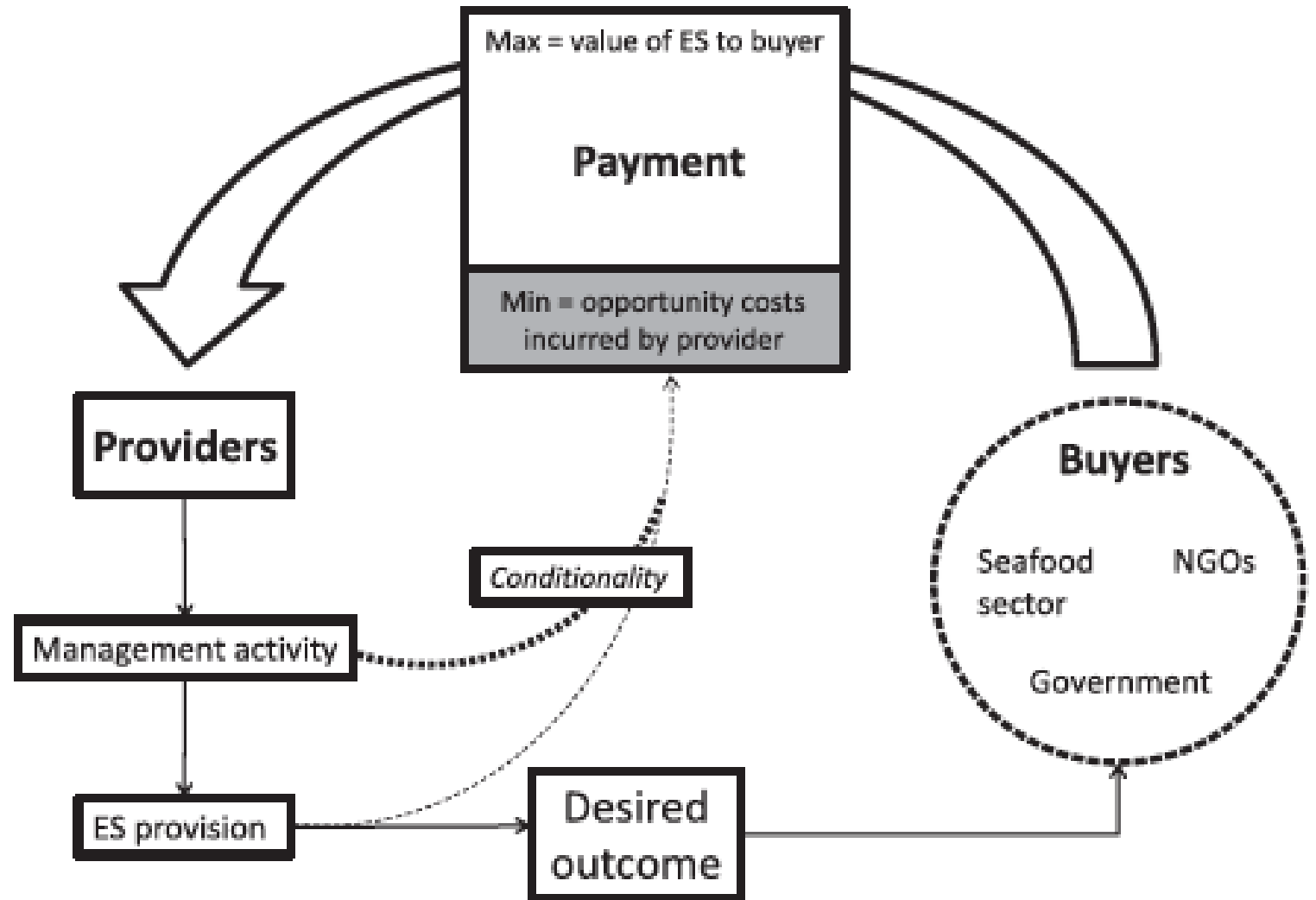
- Should be voluntary, based on a well-defined ecosystem service

Payment made on provision of ES

- Thus conditional; the ES needs to be provided to continue payment

MGMT + ES Provision → Buy-in

... and cycle continues



How does this look in Thung Noi?

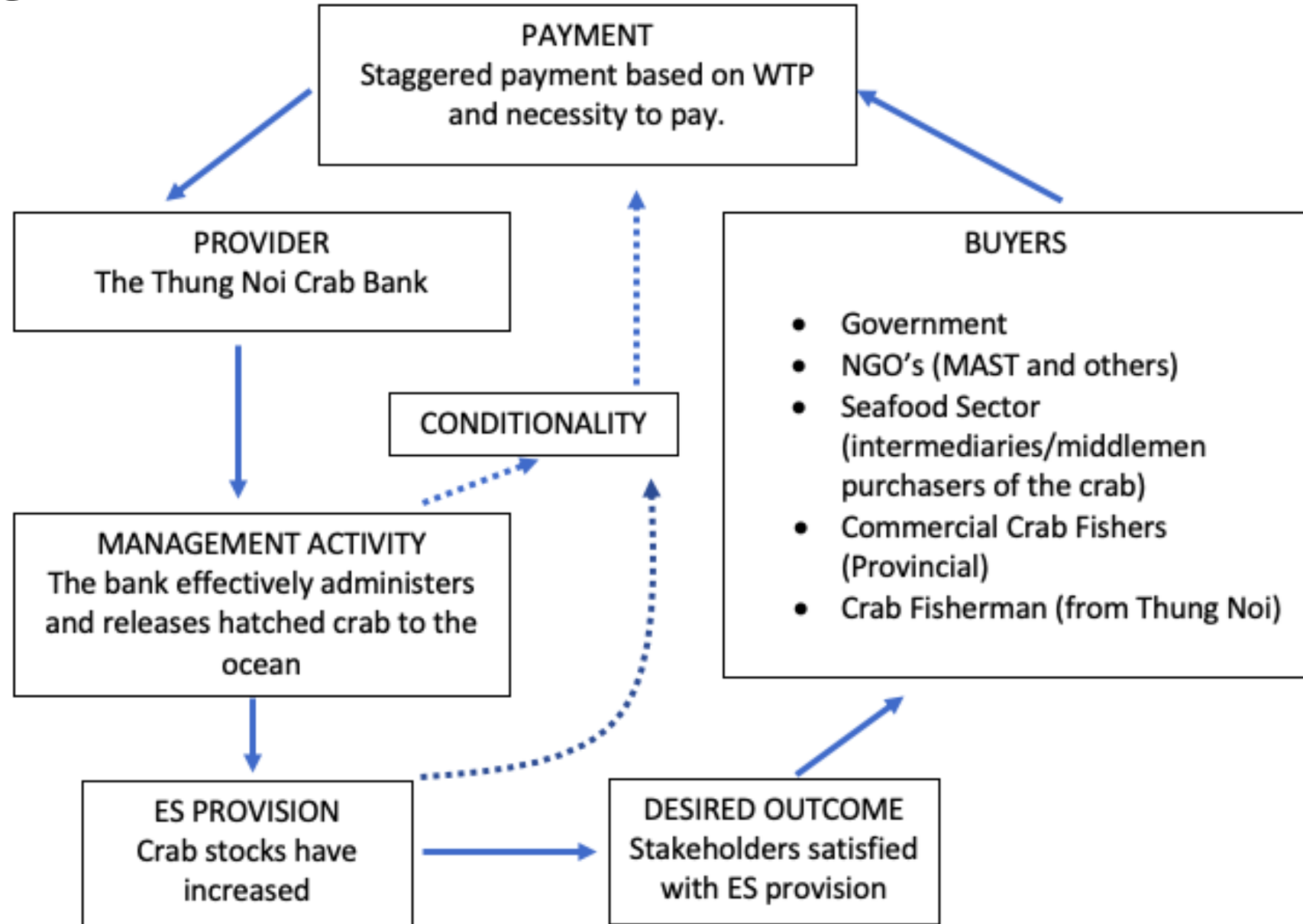
PES in Thung Noi

The government and LAO will need to play a vital role in the implementation

- Financial Support
- Education
- Facilitation

Would assume low buy-in amongst some stakeholders
- Crab Bank need for education

→ If ES provision is as expected + informed = greater buy-in



DISCUSSION

narrative/
framing

Traditional fishing communities

- sustainable alternative
- protecting the environment
- use of traditional, un-destructive gear
- providing for many livelihoods
- accountable

Commercial fishing fleets

- unsustainable
- causing environmental problems
- use harmful fishing methods
- destroying traditional livelihoods
- unaccountable (corruption, powerful)

observations

- boats bigger than regulation
- old diesel engines
- large plastic fishing nets, improvised styrofoam buoys
- unregulated, unmonitored catch (no documentation)
- not economically sustainable? lack of support from within the community?

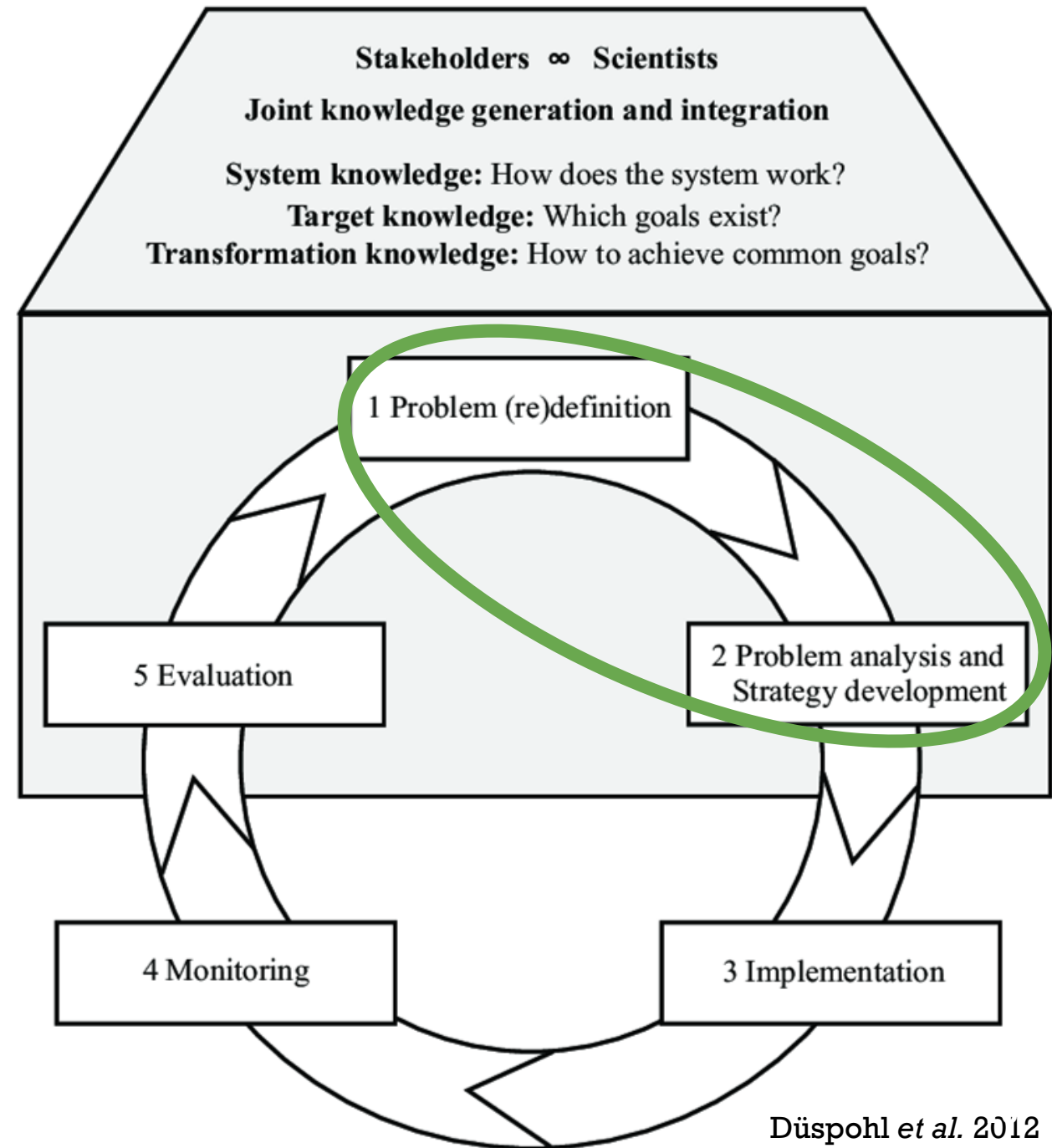


Is it really sustainable, artisanal, traditional?



CONCLUSION

- For transdisciplinary research: include more stakeholders and their perspective (other community members/fisherfolk; women; commercial fishery actors, government officials)



THANK YOU