



1st Meeting of the Pangasius Aquaculture Dialogue

**Developing Standards
for Sustainable Pangasius Farming**

Meeting Summary



Ho Chi Minh City, VIETNAM

26 – 27 September 2007

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Executive summary

More than 70 producers, buyers, government officials and others from around the world participated in the inaugural meeting of the Pangasius Aquaculture Dialogue in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 26-27 September 2007. The meeting, convened by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), began with an overview of WWF's efforts on sustainable aquaculture and a discussion about the objectives of the PAD meeting. This was followed by 6 presentations expressing the point of view of producers (1), government (1), buyers (3) and nongovernment organizations (1) on pangasius sustainability.

Members of the PAD then discussed and unanimously agreed on the **main issues** related to pangasius aquaculture, as well as the **principles** to address each issue. These are reported below.

Issue	Principle
Legal compliance	Locate and operate farms within established national and local legal framework
Land and water use	Farms should be located, designed and constructed to minimize negative impacts on other users and the environment
Water pollution	Minimize negative impacts on water resources
Escapes	Minimize impacts on local biodiversity and natural habitat
Feed management	Use feed and feed practices that make efficient use of available feed resources and minimize waste
Health management	Implement health management measures to reduce stress and minimize the risks of disease affecting both cultured and wild stocks
Antibiotics and chemicals	Ensure food safety and the quality of products, while reducing the risk to the ecosystem
Social responsibility and user conflicts	Develop and operate farms in a socially responsible manner that contributes effectively to rural development and poverty alleviation

The **objective** of the PAD was agreed to by consensus as follows: Develop certification standards for environmentally and socially sustainable pangasius farming. As such, the objective of the standards produced through the PAD process is to promote environmentally and socially sustainable pangasius farming.

The **justification** for the PAD and the standards developed through the PAD process was also agreed on by consensus. It is based on the following key points:

- Pangasius is increasingly popular among consumers
- Pangasius farming is experiencing an extremely fast growth
- There is a desire to safeguard the sustainability of pangasius farming and consumers' safety, therefore maintaining quality and productivity
- There is a need to be proactive rather than reactive to problems
- There is a desire for a more multi-stakeholder, consensus-based, metrics-based and transparent set of standards

The **process** through which the PAD will develop certification standards for pangasius was discussed throughout the meeting and agreed upon in a plenary session.

A **Steering Committee** that includes balanced representation from all stakeholder groups will form the key body for standard development. The Steering Committee members (17) were identified and agreed upon by the PAD participants and included producers (5), distributors/buyers (3), government (3), NGOs (3), academia (1), input suppliers (2). Tasks to be completed by the Steering Committee before the next PAD meeting were also agreed on and included the development of criteria and indicators to address the main issues related to pangasius aquaculture.

The **future steps** for the PAD were also agreed on as being:

- WWF will develop and disseminate a summary of the 1st PAD meeting
- WWF will send invitations to the Steering Committee members
- The Steering Committee will engage in discussions to carry out the assigned tasks
- A PAD meeting to discuss criteria and indicators will be held in March 2008, or earlier

Background to the meeting

In April 2007, following occasional communication with several stakeholders involved with pangasius aquaculture, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) initiated the Pangasius Aquaculture Dialogue (PAD). The goal of the dialogue is to develop standards for certifying pangasius farming. This is one of six aquaculture dialogues initiated by WWF. Stakeholder engagement in the PAD was encouraged at several national and international events, including the Catfish 2007 meeting held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 13-15 June 2007 and Asia-Pacific Aquaculture 2007 held in HaNoi, Vietnam 5-8 August 2007. The 1st PAD meeting was scheduled for 26-27 September 2007 and a tentative list of participants was developed and discussed on several occasions with producers, buyers, government officials and other stakeholders. To allow for dynamic discussion and reaching agreement without compromising multi-stakeholder participation, the decision was made to limit the number of participants to approximately 70. A limit of one person per organization was established, with the exception of producers, who were requested to select two people (one representing the processing side and one representing farmers supplying the processing plant). The 1st PAD meeting was advertised widely through articles in major fisheries publications and by direct email engagement with major NGOs, such as Oxfam, CARE, IUCN and the members of the NGO Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Working Group mailing list (ngo-sanrm@ngocentre.org.vn). Throughout this process, strong support was given by the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), who contributed to advertising the event and agreed to issue a joint WWF/VASEP invitation to selected producers and feed manufacturers. A form to allow stakeholders to sign up to participate in the PAD also was developed and posted on the WWF website. A decision was made to allow participation by all the stakeholders within the supply chain or representing NGOs and who provided some basic information on their interest in pangasius sustainability. Attendance by other interested people was dependent on the relevance of their expertise to the PAD or their expressed motivation to contribute to the discussion.

Introduction to the Pangasius Aquaculture Dialogue

The meeting began with a presentation by Dr. Flavio Corsin, WWF senior aquaculture advisor. He thanked the participants for joining the meeting, gave a brief introduction to WWF efforts on aquaculture and outlined the objectives of the 1st Pangasius Aquaculture Dialogue (PAD) meeting.

Key points

- WWF, the largest privately financed conservation organization in the world, believes that aquaculture can contribute to reducing pressure on wild fisheries and provide sustainable livelihoods for millions of people (especially in Asia).
- There is a need to address the major issues of the aquaculture sector to allow for the sustainable development of the industry. For this reason WWF initiated the aquaculture dialogues to develop certification standards that address the sustainability of the most important aquaculture commodities traded globally, including pangasius. The PAD is one of five dialogues currently underway.
- There is increasing recognition that the certification schemes currently available to the sector do not address the sustainability of the sector because of:
 - Limited multi-stakeholder participation and adoption of consensus-based processes
 - Limited transparency of the standard development process and governance of the scheme

- Lack of performance- and metric-based standards that can effectively measure improvement, rather than adopting a prescriptive approach, on the assumption that this will result in better performance
 - Extremely large coverage of the scheme, failing to address the key impacts and making auditing highly resource-intensive
 - Limited applicability to the greatest majority of the producers, making all schemes niche
- Standards developed through the PAD (as with other aquaculture dialogues) have to:
 - Be developed by the stakeholders involved and use a process based on consensus
 - Be focused on 6-8 key impacts/issues
 - Not result in a niche scheme, but target compliance by at least 10-15% of the producers for the species under discussion
- WWF coordinate the standard development process but is just **one of the stakeholders** in the process and not the standard holder or certifier. Standards are not WWF standards. They are geared toward making pangasius aquaculture sustainable.
- The goal of the PAD is to develop certification standards for pangasius aquaculture, which includes fish belonging to both *Pangasianodon* spp and *Pangasius* spp
- PAD standards should be applicable globally, although there is a string focus on VietNam because of its role in global pangasius production
- The suggested role of the PAD members is to:
 - Agree on the process to be followed to develop standards that are in compliance with international guidelines (FAO, ISEAL)
 - Identify major impacts/issues to achieve pangasius sustainability
 - Identify principles, criteria, indicators and standards
 - Promote the implementation of PAD standards
 - Promote trading of products from PAD producers
- The suggested objective of the 1st PAD meeting is to:
 - Agree on the process to be followed to develop standards
 - Agree on the major impacts/issues
 - Agree on principles and, if possible, criteria to address those impacts

Pangasius Sustainability: The Views of the Stakeholders

The point of view of different stakeholders involved with pangasius aquaculture was presented through 6 presentations at the meeting.

Views of the producers

Mr. Ngo Phuoc Hau, director of Agifish, vice-president of VASEP and head of the VASEP Freshwater Fish Unit, delivered a very informative presentation on the status of pangasius production and trade and on the issues needing to be addressed to achieve pangasius sustainability.

Key points

- Pangasius production has grown very rapidly over the years and more than doubled between 2005 and 2006, going from 376,000 to 825,000 tons. Pangasius export followed a similar trend, going from USD 328 million to 737 million in 2005 and 2006 respectively
- The number of markets for pangasius products also increased dramatically over the years, and pangasius moved from being a product traded primarily into the USA to

supplying a wider range of markets, such as the EU, Russia, USA, ASEAN, China and others

- The first 8 months of 2007 showed a continuous expansion of markets with some markets (e.g. Ukraine) showing particularly rapid growth (almost 3 times more imports in 2007 compared to 2006)
- Sustainable pangasius production requires sustainable technical and economical development while addressing both environmental and social sustainability
- There are several signs of unsustainable development, such as changes in price and competition, variable product quality, use of antibiotics and chemicals to manage health problems, higher cost of inputs, poor quality seed, water pollution, conflicts between farmers and processors, losses, bankruptcy and others
- The close link between environment and fish health raises the need to address environmental protection to prevent the occurrence of major epidemics
- There are several external and internal challenges to the sustainable development of the sector, including increasingly stringent quality/food safety requirements, demand for environmentally and socially sustainable products and competition with other countries
- A major conflict is occurring between small- and medium-size enterprises and larger/integrated ones. This should be solved through the improvements in quality throughout the supply chain, thus generating added value to pangasius products
- According to VASEP the 2007-2010 action plan for the sector's development should include standardizing the name for *Pangasius* spp. and *Pangasianodon* spp. fish (to be called basa, tra or pangasius), developing standards, developing aquaculture plans, implementing community-based management systems, improving seed quality, moving from farm-made to commercial feed, building institutional capacity and others
- VietGAP standards harmonized to the EurepGAP and ACC standards are currently being developed
- A plan for cooperation within and outside the supply chain was presented

Views of the government

Mr. Nguyen Tu Cuong, director of the National Fisheries Quality Assurance and Veterinary Directorate (NAFIQAVED) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), presented the view of the government of Viet Nam to achieve sustainable pangasius aquaculture

Key points

- Before 2000, pangasius aquaculture was largely underdeveloped because of limited seed availability and market. Production, however, took off in the 2001-2003 period and accelerated rapidly in the following years because of the large market demand, improved farming techniques and expansion of farming areas
- Major issues to be addressed to achieve sustainability include planning development and enforcement, irrigation and water management, seed quality and health, quality of inputs, the close link between diseases, environment and food safety, partnership within the supply chain, and supply/demand dynamics
- The role of the government in achieving pangasius sustainability includes the development of legal frameworks, multi-sectoral planning, promotion and certification of farms for compliance to BMP/GAqP/CoC standards, introduction of a traceability system, provide predictions related to global production, and promote Vietnamese pangasius
- From a technical perspective, there is a need for assessing the environmental impact and carrying capacity of the Mekong Delta, developing vaccines, improving

methods for waste treatment and environmental protection, and improving seed quality

- The private sector has an important role in strengthening the links within the supply chain through developing producers associations, developing/strengthening contract arrangements, providing training, and ensuring safety of the pangasius produced
- NGOs should promote sustainable farming and get involved in certification following the requirements of the private sector and government
- With the merging of the Ministry of Fisheries into MARD, NAFIQAVED will preserve its existing functions and expand them to include quality assurance and food safety for other agriculture products. As such, NAFIQAVED will continue its work on certification and management of health, environment and food safety

Views of the buyers

The point of view of the buyers was presented through 3 presentations delivered by 3 different buyers

Views of the buyers: Anova Food

Ms. Anne-Laurence Huillery of the Anova Food's technical department in Vietnam gave an overview of the status of pangasius globally when compared with other fisheries products, such as tilapia, salmon and wild-caught fish and presented Anova Food's views on sustainable pangasius production

Key points

- There is a strong business case for promoting sustainability
- There are several standards/efforts aimed at improving the sustainability of the aquaculture sector. This proliferation may lead to consumer confusion
- Sustainability of pangasius aquaculture is threatened by several factors, such as environmental deterioration, the feeding of pangasius to pangasius, the use of antibiotics and chemicals which may lead to product contamination and antibiotic resistance, and consumers' perception of pangasius aquaculture. Antibiotics and chemicals can be used but this should be done in a responsible manner.
- Anova's expectations from the PAD include the identification of the main threats to pangasius sustainability and the environment and the development of recommendations and standards to control those threats
- Aquaculture is sustainable if, in addition to mastering the life-cycle, controlling the growing process and marketing the final product, environmental protection is also addressed

Views of the buyers: Butler's Choice

Butler's Choice (BCI) CEO Jacob Gertsen introduced and showed a video which summarized the views of the company on pangasius sustainability.

Key points

- BCI has been pursuing socially and environmentally sustainable pangasius production for several years
- Producers are often adopting unsustainable practices which can impact the environment and the welfare of employees and local communities.
- Sustainability is addressed providing market incentives to producers to comply with sustainability standards, such as SA8000 and ISO 14001
- Sustainability has also been addressed by BCI through the promotion of children's education as a way to target child labor

- BCI welcomes the PAD and is eager to contribute to the PAD efforts towards sustainable pangasius farming

Views of the buyers: Birds Eye/Iglo

David Graham, head of Quality and Regulatory Affairs at Birds Eye/Iglo, presented the company's views on the sustainability of pangasius and other fisheries products.

Key points

- Birds Eye/Iglo is a major European frozen food manufacturer which operates in 8 EU countries and for which fish is a key product
- Pangasius make up a relatively small proportion of the Birds Eye/Iglo's fish portfolio. However, aquaculture products are likely to play an increasing role because of the decrease in capture fisheries, increased consumer awareness on environmental sustainability issues and the proliferation of eco-labels
- Standards addressing sustainability should address environmental, ethical/social, and food safety issues
- To succeed, it is important that standards are robust, realistic and recognized by both consumers and NGOs

Views of an NGO

Dr. Flavio Corsin presented the point of view of WWF, as one of the stakeholders involved in pangasius aquaculture, and issues of importance to other NGOs

Key points

- NGOs believe that, for aquaculture to be sustainable, it should minimize or eliminate environmental, social and -- according to some NGOs -- animal welfare issues
- Major impacts/issues to be considered for sustainable pangasius aquaculture are:
 - Habitat destruction
 - Ecosystem pollution with nutrients, chemicals, pathogens etc.
 - Potential impact of escapes on the habitat
 - Use of wild seed or broodstock
 - Use of fish meal/oil or trashfish
 - Needs of other resource users
 - Employee rights
 - Gender balance
- In this process, the economic viability of businesses should be considered, as this is essential for compliance to any set of standards
- The strong links between environment, social issues, food safety and economics dictate the need to look at sustainability broadly
- Standards that address sustainability should be developed in compliance with international guidelines (FAO and ISEAL) and be based on the principles of multi-stakeholder consultation, consensus and transparency

General discussion points

- The economic viability of businesses when the businesses are complying to any set of standards should be a priority for every stakeholder involved in the development of standards, including the PAD
- Some buyers pay higher price for products produced in a sustainable manner. There should be an equitable distribution of profits generated through compliance to sustainability standards

- It is important to set the boundaries of the dialogue with clear objectives to be fulfilled through the standards
- Some stakeholders feel that investment to achieve compliance and support the sustainability of the sector is primarily the responsibility of the producers
- Education among producers is low and their ability to comply with standards may be limited. There also is the need to address those capacity gaps through courses and, perhaps, the establishment of training structures for farmers and children
- Care should be taken not to exclude small-scale producers on the basis of their access to resources or their limited education
- Performance-based standards focused on key impacts should reduce the cost of audits and allow access to certification also to small-scale producers without compromising the quality dictated by the standards.
- Standards should consider (but not focus on) food safety issues because of the close links with environmental protection (e.g. chemical use).
- Although it is important to deal with standards for inputs, such as seed and feed, the PAD should focus on standards for farming
- There is a need to look at the carbon footprint of farming to better understand the broad sustainability implications of pangasius farming
- Institutional capacity should also be addressed but probably not through the PAD standards, as these are focused on the producers
- The contribution of the standards to the Millennium Development Goals should also be stated

Main issues and principles for pangasius sustainability

General discussion was held following the presentations and throughout the PAD meeting. Four Working Groups (WG), each with equal representation of the different stakeholder groups, were established to discuss the main impacts of pangasius aquaculture. Each WG then presented its findings to a plenary session to reach consensus within the PAD.

The 4 WGs then engaged in developing principles to address the identified impacts. A set of documents, including the outcome of the Tilapia Aquaculture Dialogue and the “International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming,” were used to inform the process of principle development.

Key points

- It was felt that the outcome of previous aquaculture dialogues identifying the main impacts for other aquaculture products was useful in guiding the process of impact identification, although the term “issues” was preferred over “impacts” for the way the items are described
- There was a significant degree of consensus between different WGs and most of the issues on which lack of consensus had to be solved were largely due to the perception that some issues are not of major importance in Viet Nam, although they may affect sustainability in other countries.
- The PAD also suggested to maximize consistency among the principles developed through different aquaculture dialogues, with the objective of initiating a process of harmonization between dialogues and the potential development of unified principles for sustainable aquaculture

Main impacts/issues and principles to address them were unanimously accepted by the PAD participants. These are reported below.

Issue 1: Legal compliance

Key points

- Compliance to the legal framework operating in the country in which pangasius farming is conducted is a key requirement and should be incorporated in any voluntary set of standards
- Compliance to the requirements of the importing country should also be included while preserving the sovereignty of the country where farming is conducted
- Several legal documents applicable to pangasius farming have been produced at both the national and local level (at least in Vietnam). However enforcement occasionally is weak.
- Farms should be located and operated following government plans that take into account cumulative effects of farming operations
- Following some of the legal documents (e.g. on water effluents) is difficult for producers
- Farms should operate in legality as defined by the national and/or local authorities

Principle 1: Locate and operate farms within established national and local legal framework

Potential criteria

- Compliance to the law

Issue 2: Land and water use

Key points

- Establishment of farms can be associated with loss of sensitive habitat (e.g. wetlands)
- Planning of aquaculture areas and siting of farms following plans should take into consideration the cumulative impact of farming operations
- Plans should be based on carrying capacity studies
- Plans should take into consideration technical/management, environmental, social and food safety issues
- Plans should be cross-sectoral and consider the impact of other sectors on aquaculture and the impact of aquaculture on other resource users
- The use of land and water are associated with different issues, but those differences could be addressed through criteria, indicators and standards.

There is a close link between land and water use and water pollution. However, it is preferable to keep those separate, as the issue of land and water use deals primarily with activities conducted before farming is initiated, while water pollution deals primarily with farm operation.

Principle 2: Farms should be located, designed and constructed to minimize negative impacts on other users and the environment

Potential criteria

- Carrying capacity
- Location
- Planning/mapping
- Wetland conversion

Issue 3: Water pollution

Key points

- The rapid growth of the sector has raised huge concerns among the different stakeholders on the sustainability of pangasius farming and the potential of water pollution and self-pollution of farming operations, which may ultimately lead to disease outbreaks
- Monitoring of water quality requires equipment and capacity often not available to producers
- Currently, the development of facilities to treat the discharged water (e.g. treatment ponds) would be almost impossible for most producers, if this has to be done in a cost-effective way and without compromising the quality of the products, which is largely reliant on the heavy exchange of water.
- There is a need to look at the quality of the water used by farms, not only at the quality of the water discharged (look at relative changes)
- Nutrients can also be beneficial (e.g. for agriculture) and can be considered byproducts rather than waste
- Ponds and cages have different nutrient efficiency performance levels. Consideration should be given to the development of different standards for the two systems.
- There is a close link between land and water use and water pollution. Standards should be developed to avoid any potential overlapping

Principle 3: Minimize negative impacts on water resources

Potential criteria

- Waste/Efficiency

Issue 4: Escapees

Key points

- There is a trend towards promoting the farming of pangasius in areas where pangasius may not be yet established

- Wild capture of seed is not a major issue now in VietNam because of widespread availability of hatchery seed
- Seed quality is generally low, potentially because of the low price of seed
- Selective breeding programs are now being developed to produce better pangasius strains
- Escapees are likely to occur in any farming system, so particular attention should be devoted to the potential difference between the farmed and wild stocks
- Escapees are likely to be a larger problem for cages than ponds
- Auditing of escapes is inherently a difficult task
- The impact of escapes should be balanced with the need to improve stock performance
- Although circumstantial evidence would seem to show that escapes in areas where pangasius is established do not have a negative impact on the local biodiversity and habitat, there is little concrete evidence which could be addressed through research

Principle 4: Minimize impacts on local biodiversity and natural habitat

Potential criteria

- Differences between farmed and wild stocks

Issue 5: Feed management

Key points

- Maximizing feed efficiency is very important for economic and environmental reasons.
- It is now possible to produce feed to successfully grow pangasius with minimal amounts of fish meal and fish oil. Economics, therefore, play a key role in whether these feed will be widely used
- The use of trashfish and low value fish to feed pangasius has been an issue of concern in the past in VietNam. Although the use of trashfish appears to be decreasing in VietNam, other countries may follow similar steps, therefore requiring the need to consider trashfish in developing the standards
- The use of trashfish has traditionally been dictated by economics, as it is generally cheaper than commercial feed. However, economic considerations should not be the sole manner to decide on trashfish use and responsible use of fish resources should be promoted through the standards
- Since the sector grew rapidly over the past 1-2 years, there is a lack of updated information on the feeding practices currently being used by pangasius farmers
- While attempting to reduce the inclusion of fish products in pangasius feed, the sustainability issues associated with using other feedstuff (e.g. soy) should also be considered
- Farm-made feed most often is associated with poorer file quality and has a greater negative impact on water resources than commercial feed. Commercial feed should, therefore, be promoted
- Some producers feel there is the need to conduct more research on feed formulation
- The inclusion of genetically modified organisms (GMO) as a criteria for the development of standards should be considered

Principle 5: Use feed and feed practices that make efficient use of available feed resources and minimize waste

Potential criteria

- Fish meal/oil
- Trash fish
- Agriculture byproducts use
- GMO

Issue 6: Health management

Key points

- Health management is closely associated with environmental protection and food safety
- Managing health is in the interest of producers, although the issue of controlling the spread of diseases to farmed and wild populations should be addressed
- Stocking of disease-free seed, reducing stocking density and improving feed quality and management practices should be considered to improve health management
- Poor health may also be an indication of poor management.
- Addressing stress is important for health management. However, to include stress in standards, there is the need to better define "stress."
- Mortality is easy to record with pond/cage books and should be considered for inclusion in the standards
- Compliance to practices on how to dispose dead fish could also be included in the standards
- Dead fish can be treated appropriately (e.g. cooked) and used as feed for other organisms, therefore recycling nutrients
- The health risk of feeding pangasius products to pangasius may require further investigation
- There is a close link between health management and animal welfare
- Buyers and consumers are interested in animal welfare but this, for most, is not a priority
- Animal welfare could be considered in the standards if it becomes more of an issue in the future

Principle 6: Implement health management measures to reduce stress and minimize the risks of disease affecting both cultured and wild stocks

Potential criteria

- Disease
- Stress
- Mortality

Issue 7: Antibiotics and chemicals

Key points

- Antibiotics and chemical residue are a major threat to the sustainability of the sector because they can cause rejections and major losses to the whole industry
- Addressing antibiotic and chemical use is a priority for buyers
- The use of antibiotics and chemicals should be allowed if conducted responsibly
- Prophylactic use of antibiotics should be forbidden
- Antibiotic/chemical use is largely under the control of producers, who should comply to national regulations to achieve sustainability
- The issues associated with the use of antibiotics or chemicals are sometimes different (e.g. antibiotic resistance). These differences should be addressed through criteria, indicators and standards. However, antibiotics and chemicals could be addressed by the same principle.
- Standards developed through the PAD do not necessarily need to go into the details of antibiotic/chemical control but they could refer to legislation
- Antibiotic resistance could be considered for its impacts on the ecosystem and on food safety
- Antibiotic resistance is a major issue of concern. However, it may not be possible to address this through the standards because it would be difficult to establish a clear link between farming operations and resistance.

Principle 7: Ensure food safety and the quality of products, while reducing the risk to the ecosystem

Potential criteria

- Antibiotic use
- Chemical use

Issue 8: Social responsibility and user conflicts

Key points

- Social impacts of pangasius farming, especially towards other resource users, are usually poorly understood
- NGOs would oppose any sustainability standards that do not take into consideration social issues
- There is a close link between social and environmental sustainability. Since environmental issues are largely dealt with under other principles, it does not also need to be included here.

Principle 8: Develop and operate farms in a socially responsible manner that contributes effectively to rural development and poverty alleviation

Potential criteria

- User conflicts

PAD objectives, justification and process

Objective

The objective of the PAD was agreed to by consensus and is reported below

Develop certification standards for environmentally and socially sustainable pangasius farming

As such, the objective of the standards produced through the PAD process is to promote environmentally and socially sustainable pangasius farming.

Several participants also felt that, although at present the PAD should be focused on the development of certification standards, there is a huge scope for the PAD to develop into a multi-stakeholder forum aimed at producing broad recommendations for the sustainable development of the pangasius aquaculture sector.

Justification

Through consensus, the justification for the PAD and the standards developed through the PAD process was also agreed on. It is based on the following key points:

- Pangasius is increasingly popular among consumers
- Pangasius farming is experiencing an extremely fast growth
- There is a desire to safeguard the sustainability of pangasius farming and consumers' safety, therefore maintaining quality and productivity
- There is a need to be proactive rather than reactive to problems
- There is a desire for a more multi-stakeholder, consensus-based, metrics-based and transparent set of standards

Process & Steering Committee

The PAD participants agreed that the process followed to organize the 1st PAD meeting allowed the development of a forum for discussion and consensus building without compromising multi-stakeholder participation.

The process through which the PAD will develop certification standards for pangasius was discussed throughout the meeting and agreed upon in a plenary session. Key steps in the process are reported below:

- A Steering Committee that includes balanced representation from all stakeholder groups (producers, distributors/buyers, government, NGOs, academia, input suppliers) will form the key body for standard development.
- The Steering Committee should be:
 - Selected through consensus (see below for a description of the agreed Steering Committee members)

- Small enough to allow discussions but the size should not compromise multi-stakeholder participation, which is key to the PAD process
- Made of people and not their organizations. Keeping consistency of Steering Committee members will facilitate consensus building and minimize revisiting of issues on which consensus had already been reached
- Inclusive of the views of stakeholders outside Vietnam
- Not inclusive of certifiers, although certifiers should be involved throughout the PAD process
- Steering Committee members should attempt to gather the views of others belonging to the same stakeholder group
- The Steering Committee will operate through a mechanism of consensus
- Discussions among the Steering Committee members will be conducted primarily by email as all the members have access to email and, if not fluent in English, can receive assistance in understanding English communication/documents
- Decisions taken by the Steering Committee will be discussed at PAD meetings and agreed upon or revised as needed
- The responsibilities of the Steering Committee until the next PAD meeting (to be held in March 2008 or earlier) include:
 - Refine the justification
 - Develop criteria and indicators
 - Identify research needs
 - Identify sources of funding
 - Identify and implement a process to deal with comments/complains
 - Identify a mechanism to deal with absence of consensus within the PAD. If consensus cannot be reached within the Steering Committee, the issue will be dealt at the next PAD meeting
 - Identify directly impacted stakeholders (agriculture farmers, etc.) & process to seek their feedback
 - Submit all the above to the PAD
- The standards will be developed in compliance with ISEAL and FAO guidelines to preserve multi-stakeholder participation and a consensus-based mechanism.
- Once finalized, the standards may receive editorial review to make sure that they are clear and concise

The **Steering Committee** members, as agreed upon by the PAD participants, are:
Producers

1. Bui Van Dung - QVD
2. Vo Phuoc Hung - Agifish
3. Vo Thanh Khon - Bianfishco
4. Vo Phu Duc - Vinh Hoan
5. 1 person from VASEP (to be invited)

Distributors/Buyers

6. David Graham - Birds Eye / Iglo (to be invited)
7. Florentina Constanta - Butler's Choice
8. Anne-Laurence Huillery – Anova Food and possibly representing also Carrefour

Government

9. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development from NAFIQAVED, Dept. of Aquaculture or VINAFIS (to be invited)
10. NACA to represent the view of the governments (to be invited)
11. RIA2 to represent also the seed producers (to be invited)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

12. Flavio Corsin – WWF. Acting as PAD coordinator
13. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (person to be selected)
14. MCD to bring the views of a local NGO (to be invited)

Academia

15. David Little - University of Stirling (UK)

Input suppliers

16. Dan Fegan – Cargill (to be invited)
17. Jan Koesling – Bayer (to be invited)

Future steps

- WWF will develop and disseminate a summary of the 1st PAD meeting
- WWF will send invitations to the Steering Committee members
- The Steering Committee will engage in discussions to carry out the assigned tasks
- A PAD meeting to discuss criteria and indicators will be held in March 2008, or earlier

Annexes

Meeting agenda

Wednesday 26 September 2007

- 8:00 – 8:30 Registration
- 8:30 – 9:00 Introduction to the Pangasius Aquaculture Dialogue
- 9:00 – 9:30 Pangasius sustainability: the views of the producers
Ngo Phuoc Hau (VASEP)
- 9:30 – 9:50 Break
- 9:50 – 10:20 Pangasius sustainability: the views of the government
Nguyen Tu Cuong (NAFIQAVED)
- 10:20 – 11:20 Pangasius sustainability: the views of the buyers
Anne-Laurence Huillery (Anova Food)
Jacob Gertsen (Butler's Choice)
David Graham (Birds Eye/Iglo)
- 11:20 – 11:30 Pangasius sustainability: the views of the NGOs
Flavio Corsin (WWF)
- 11:30 – 12:00 Questions and Answers
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 1:40 Introduction to working groups
- 1:40 – 3:10 Working group discussion
- 3:10 – 3:30 Break
- 3:30 – 5:00 Working group presentations & discussion

Thursday 27 September 2007

- 8:30 – 9:50 Working group discussion
- 9:50 – 10:10 Break
- 10:10– 12:00 Working group presentations & discussion
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 3:00 Agreement on standard development process, major impacts, principles and criteria
- 3:00 – 3:20 Break
- 3:20 – 4:40 Development of action plan
- 4:40 – 5:00 Closing of 1st Pangasius Aquaculture Dialogue meeting

List of documents distributed

- Presentations delivered at the meeting (mostly in English and Vietnamese)
- Press releases on the aquaculture dialogues (in English and Vietnamese)
- List of key impacts identified through other aquaculture dialogues (in English and Vietnamese)
- Pangasius chapter extracted from the World Bank/MOFI Guidelines for Environmental Management of Aquaculture Investments (in English and Vietnamese)
- Summary of the Tilapia Aquaculture Dialogue meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 26-27 August 2007 (in English and Vietnamese)
- ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards (in English and Vietnamese)
- International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming (in English)
- Preliminary draft of the FAO Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification (in English)

List of participants

N.	Name	Organization	Country
1	Nouv Buntha	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Cambodia
2	Peter Starr	Mekong River Commission	Cambodia
3	Reiko Omoto	University of Waterloo	Canada
4	Christoph Mathiesen	WWF	Denmark
5	Florentina Costanta	Butler's Choice	Denmark
6	Jacob Stokkebye Gertsen	Butler's Choice	Denmark
7	Pubasari Surjadi	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership	Indonesia
8	Daniel Fegan	Cargill	Thailand
9	Naruepon Sukumasavin	DOF	Thailand
10	Rubert Konijn	Netherlands Embassy	Thailand
11	Steven Schut	Wageningen University	The Netherlands
12	Dave Little	University of Stirling	United Kingdom
13	David Graham	BirdsEye/Iglo	United Kingdom
14	Jose Villalon	WWF	USA
15	Mike Fairman	Mazzetta Company LLC	USA
16	Anne-Laurence Huillery	Anova Food	Vietnam
17	Bui Antoine	Binca	Vietnam
18	Bui Quoc Phu		Vietnam
19	Bui Van Dung	Q.V.D Co., Ltd	Vietnam
20	Chau Thi Da	An Giang University	Vietnam
21	Dang Kiet Tuong	AQUATEX BENTRE	Vietnam
22	Dave Gorman	Amanda Foods	Vietnam
23	Dirk Lorenz-Meyer	Behn-Meyer	Vietnam
24	Do Chiem Tan	Viet Thang	Vietnam
25	Do Thi Kim Oanh		Vietnam
26	Do Xuan Mai	AnGiang Fisheries Association	Vietnam
27	Erik Keus	FSPS2/MOFI	Vietnam
28	Flavio Corsin	WWF	Vietnam
29	Huynh Van Mung	DARD Dong Thap	Vietnam
30	Irmén Mantingh	Fresh Studio Innovations Asia	Vietnam
31	Jan Koesling	Bayer	Vietnam
32	Lam Van Minh	CASEAMEX	Vietnam
33	Le Dinh Thanh Nha	Unipresident	Vietnam
34	Le Ngoc Phuoc	Vietnam Fisheries Association	Vietnam
35	Le Thanh Hung	Nong Lam University	Vietnam
36	Le Van Hai	Q.V.D Co., Ltd	Vietnam
37	Luong Hoang Manh	MEKONGFISH Co	Vietnam
38	Luu Quoc Thang	VD FOOD EXPORT JOINT STOCK CO,	Vietnam
39	Mai Thanh Truc	Unipresident	Vietnam
40	Mai Van Tai	CEDMA/RIA1	Vietnam
41	Ngo Phuoc Hau	Agifish	Vietnam

N.	Name	Organization	Country
42	Ngo Tan Cuong	VD FOOD EXPORT JOINT STOCK CO,	Vietnam
43	Nguyen Anh Thu	WWF	Vietnam
44	Nguyen Duong Hieu	SGS	Vietnam
45	Nguyen Linh	Hue University	Vietnam
46	Nguyen Thanh Viet	GTZ	Vietnam
47	Nguyen Thi Dung	Q.V.D Co., Ltd	Vietnam
48	Nguyen To Uyen	WWF	Vietnam
49	Nguyen Tu Cuong	NAFIQAVED/MOFI	Vietnam
50	Nguyen Van Doi	Q.V.D Co., Ltd	Vietnam
51	Nguyen Van Dung	Q.V.D Co., Ltd	Vietnam
52	Nguyen Van Nam	hatchery owner	Vietnam
53	Nguyen Van Sang	RIA2	Vietnam
54	Nguyen Van Su	Q.V.D Co., Ltd	Vietnam
55	Nguyen Van Trong	RIA2	Vietnam
56	Nicolas Privet	Ocialis	Vietnam
57	Pham Quoc Lam	Butler's Choice	Vietnam
58	Phan Thi Ngoc Thuy	Nong Lam University/RMIT	Vietnam
59	Phan Trong Su	Tan Long Aquaculture Co Ltd; Muoi Su Fisheries Co Ltd	Vietnam
60	Phan Van Truong	Butler's Choice	Vietnam
61	Phan Xuan Hoang	Aquaservice	Vietnam
62	Son Thanh Tung	University of Social Sciences & Humanity/Oxfam	Vietnam
63	To Tan Hoai	Seaprimexco	Vietnam
64	Tran Chi Thien	CL-Fish corp	Vietnam
65	Tran Huynh Cuong	Bayer	Vietnam
66	Tran Ngoc Lanh	Q.V.D Co., Ltd	Vietnam
67	Tran Phong	SGS	Vietnam
68	Tran Thi Ut Anh Dao	WWF volunteer	Vietnam
69	Tran Thu Giang	WWF volunteer/University of Economics HCMC	Vietnam
70	Tran Truong Luu		Vietnam
71	Tran Van Ha	HUNGCA Co., LTD	Vietnam
72	Tran Van Hau	HUNGCA Co., LTD	Vietnam
73	Trinh Quoc Trong	RIA2	Vietnam
74	Truong Dinh Hoe	VASEP	Vietnam
75	Truong Minh Giau	ANVIFISH Co	Vietnam
76	Vo Dong Duc	CASEAMEX	Vietnam
77	Vo Hoang Nguyen	Aquaservice	Vietnam
78	Vo Phu Duc	VINH HOAN CORP	Vietnam
79	Vo Phuoc Hung	Agifish/ADB	Vietnam
80	Vo Thanh Khon	Bianfishco	Vietnam
81	Vu Dung Tien	Dept Aquaculture/MOFI	Vietnam