

Global and Local Best Practices for Advancing Community Engagement in Offshore Wind Zones in Tamil Nadu



Consolidated Appendix

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1 Appendix A: Objective, Scope, and Methodology

1.1 Objective

The primary objective of this assessment was to develop a practical and actionable resource to guide Indian planning authorities and developers in fostering effective community engagement for offshore wind energy projects. Recognising the nascent stage of India's offshore wind sector, particularly in Tamil Nadu, and the associated socio-economic concerns of local coastal communities, this study aims to bridge the existing gap in engagement strategies by drawing on global best practices.

This effort was guided by the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), India, signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to promote inter-institutional cooperation, facilitated by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). This partnership aimed to promote collaborative research and academic exchange, including faculty, staff, and student visits for research and teaching.

Specifically, the study sought to:

- Identify and compile examples of effective community engagement approaches from international offshore wind projects, with a focus on social inclusion, livelihood protection, and benefit-creation mechanisms.
- Analyse the applicability of these approaches within the Indian context, particularly in Tamil Nadu, through stakeholder consultations with representative NGOs and policy reviews.
- Develop a tailored community engagement framework that aligns with international standards (e.g., IFC Performance Standards) and national policy objectives.
- Offer practical tools and principles for use across various project development phases, thereby supporting the offshore wind industry in building and maintaining a social license to operate.

This effort aimed to support sustainable and inclusive growth in the offshore wind sector, while addressing potential community-level risks and concerns in India.

1.2 Scope of Guidance

- The final guidance developed through this study aims to serve as a practical and context-specific resource for policymakers, planning authorities, and offshore wind developers, particularly for Tamil Nadu, India. It outlines effective strategies, tools, and principles for community engagement across the lifecycle of offshore wind projects, with a focus on ensuring socially inclusive and sustainable development.
- **Geographic and Sectoral Focus**
 - Primarily tailored to the Indian offshore wind sector, with a particular emphasis on Tamil Nadu as a high-potential offshore wind development zone
 - Draws on relevant lessons learned from international offshore wind projects in jurisdictions such as Ireland, the United Kingdom, South Korea, and other geographies, to ensure global relevance and comparability.
- **Thematic Coverage**
 - *Community Engagement Across Project Phases:* Provides clear guidance on how government stakeholders and developers can engage with communities during pre-approval and planning, developer selection, permitting and licensing, construction and O&M and decommissioning phases of offshore wind development
 - *Livelihood and Socio-economic Impact Considerations:* Offers strategies to address community concerns related to loss of fishing grounds, ecosystem impacts, and economic displacement, with a focus on protecting coastal livelihoods
 - *Building Social License to Operate:* Includes practical recommendations to build trust, transparency, and long-term relationships between developers and communities
 - *Policy and Regulatory Alignment:* Maps engagement strategies to relevant Indian policies and international standards such as the IFC Performance Standards, promoting regulatory coherence
 - *Practical Examples:* Case study-based examples to illustrate effective engagement approaches
- **Intended Use and Users**
 - *Government Authorities:* To inform coastal zone planning, consent procedures, and regulatory oversight

- *Project Developers and Consultants*: To design and implement community engagement plans aligned with best practices
- *Civil Society and Community Leaders*: To better understand engagement expectations and pathways for participation
- *Grid*: To support planning and coordination for grid integration of offshore wind power, including transmission evacuation, substations, and interconnection facilities.

This guidance is a forward-looking and adaptable, designed not only to support early-stage OSW developments in Tamil Nadu but also to serve as a replicable framework for future projects across India's emerging offshore wind zones.

1.3 Approach and Methodology

The study methodology combined secondary research, stakeholder consultations, and case study analysis, underpinned by a robust research framework designed to extract globally relevant and locally applicable insights.

1.3.1 Four-Phased Approach

ERM employed a four-phased research workflow to ensure systematic evidence gathering, analysis, and guidance development. The phases are outlined below:

Phase 1: Preparation & Design of Research Framework

Objective: Develop the research framework and tools.

Activities:

- Review of OEP programmatic material and national offshore wind policy.
- Analysis of strategy papers, regulatory documents, and existing guidance.
- Literature review of 8 global offshore wind publications and community engagement OSW studies.
- Stakeholder mapping and outreach planning.

Deliverable: Inception Report including the research framework and data collection instruments submitted on 10 April 2025.

Phase 2: Data Collection & Analysis

Objective: Gather and analyse data from primary and secondary sources.

Activities:

- Conduct remote interviews with domestic and international stakeholders.
- Transcribe, analyse, and triangulate data with international standards and case material.
- Review standards including IFC Performance Standards, SEAI (Ireland), and AEIC (Australia).

Deliverable: Midterm Progress Report or Preliminary Insights Report summarising emerging findings, submitted on 19 May 2025.

Phase 3: Reporting

Objective: Develop recommendations and consolidate findings.

Activities:

- Build report structure and wireframe based on stakeholder mapping and case analyses.
- Draft the content, including a community engagement toolkit.
- Revise based on feedback received from key stakeholders and reviewers.

Deliverables: Draft and Final Content Report. Draft Report was submitted on 04 August 2025. The revised report is being submitted on 12 November 2025.

Phase 4: Dissemination

Objective: Share guidance with relevant stakeholders

Activities:

- Prepare a virtual webinar (1.5 hours), including agenda, deck, and facilitation.
- Identify and invite stakeholders for participation and feedback.

Deliverables: A two-part internal dissemination with representatives from NIWE, University of Massachusetts Amherst, OEP, and ERM was held on 15 July and 21 July 2025.

Figure 1.1 Assessment Methodology Structured in Four Key Phases

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
	Preparation & design of research framework	Data Collection & Analysis	Reporting	Dissemination
Objective	Designing the research tools & framework	Gathering data and analysing	Creating recommendations	Facilitating a webinar training
Activities	Design research framework, conduct document review (programmatic from OEP), Policy review (national offshore wind energy policy, strategy papers, etc.), literature review (5-8 whitepapers, journal publications, studies), build stakeholder mapping, undertake outreach for interviews*	Conduct remote interviews, transcribe and analyse the data, triangulate insights from review of frameworks and standards (Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, IFC Performance Standards, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland)	Create the report structure wireframe and write the report containing the stakeholder mapping & analysis, case studies and community engagement toolkit	Identifying attendees*, circulating webinar invite, creating deck for webinar, building agenda and facilitating the webinar (1.5 hour)
Deliverables	Inception Report (containing Research Framework & Data Collection Tools)	Midterm Progress Report	Draft content report Final content report (<i>one iteration upon receiving consolidated feedback</i>) Final Progress Report	Agenda outline Webinar deck Webinar facilitation (virtually delivered)
Timelines	0.5 month	1 Month	1.5 Months	1 Month

1.3.2 Methodology

The methodology integrated both qualitative and comparative elements, enabling the capture of both contextual and actionable insights. The following components were critical to the research process:

Secondary Research and Literature Review

- Review of policy and strategy documents including the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy and state-level energy transition plans
 - Comparative review of international standards and frameworks including:
 - IFC Performance Standards (PS1, PS2, PS5, PS6, PS7, PS8)
 - Australian Energy Infrastructure Commission (AEIC) guidance
 - Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI) practices
- Analysis of academic literature, whitepapers, and project-specific reports (5-8 international references) cited in throughout the main report.

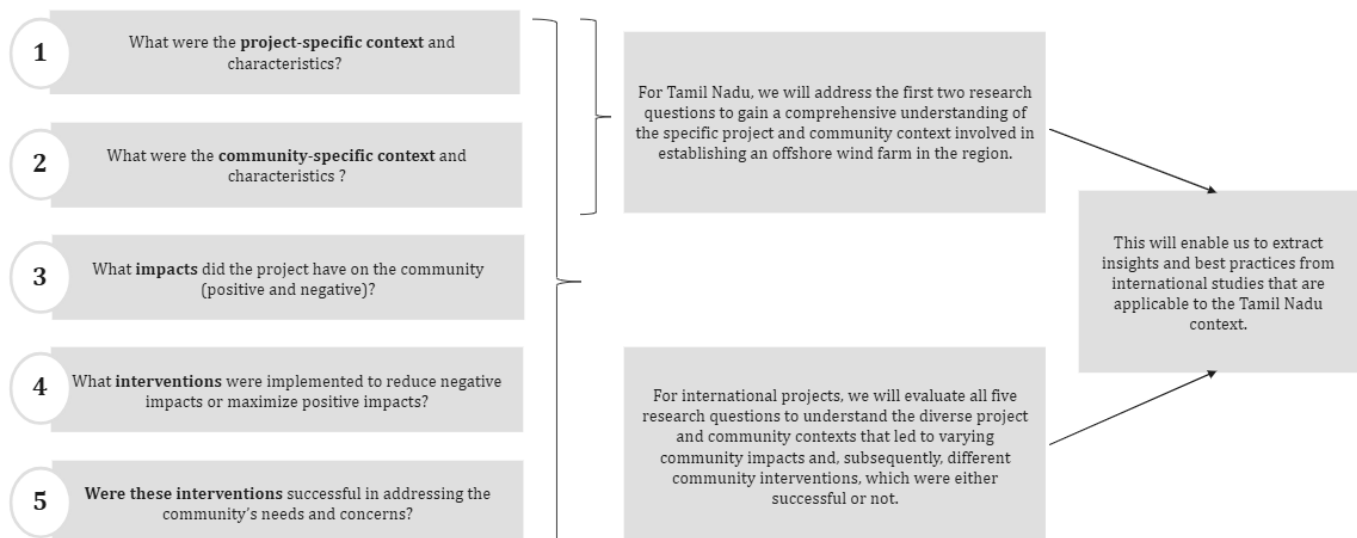
Primary Research through Stakeholder Interviews

- Remote interviews were conducted with stakeholders from:
 - Government agencies
 - International experts
 - International developers
 - NGOs and local community representatives
- Interviews were transcribed and analysed to identify contextual nuances, community expectations, perceived risks, and examples of effective engagement. Refer to **Appendix B** for the list of stakeholders interviewed.

Research Framework Adopted

The study was anchored in a structured research framework built around five key research questions. This framework allowed for systematic assessment of both international and national case studies, focusing on community engagement in offshore wind development.

Figure 1.2 Adopted Research Framework



Key Research Questions:

1. **Project Context:** What were the project-specific context and characteristics?
2. **Community Context:** What were the community-specific context and characteristics?
3. **Impacts:** What impact(s) did the project have on the community (positive and negative)?
4. **Interventions:** What interventions were implemented to mitigate

risks or enhance benefits?

5. **Outcomes:** Were these interventions successful in addressing the community's needs and concerns?

For Tamil Nadu, the first two research questions were prioritised to understand local dynamics, whereas, for international case studies, all five questions were applied to extract globally relevant insights and engagement strategies.

Areas of Inquiry and Indicators:

The framework mapped each question to thematic areas of inquiry, key indicators, and relevant IFC Performance Standards. These include:

- *Community Engagement & Social Programs:* Consultation levels, grievance systems, shared ownership
- *Ecological & Cultural Context:* Impacts on marine biodiversity, cultural heritage
- *Conflict Management & Policy Mechanisms:* Dispute resolution systems, regulatory participation
- *Economic and Safety Impacts:* Displacement, tourism disruption, navigation risks

Data Sources:

- Data was triangulated from multiple sources including:
 - Government departments and policy bodies
 - NGOs, fisher associations, and community leaders
 - Developers and project consultants
 - Academic and grey literature such as government documents, technical reports, and conference proceedings

Inception and Midterm Reports

- An Inception Report was developed early in the process to document the research framework, tools, and stakeholder mapping approach, and submitted to OEP on 10 April 2025.
- A Midterm Progress Report was shared after completion of Phase 2 to summarise key emerging insights and guide the report drafting process, on 19 May 2025.

Use of International and National Case Studies

- Case studies were used to illustrate lessons from global offshore wind projects, and their community engagement experiences.

- These were analysed through a common lens using the research framework to ensure comparability and relevance to the Tamil Nadu context.

1.4 Limitations

This study offers practical, context-specific guidance on community engagement for offshore wind development in Tamil Nadu but is subject to certain limitations. These arise primarily from the early-stage status of the offshore wind sector in India and challenges during research design and data collection.

The analysis draws on international case studies, secondary sources, and remote consultations. While informative, these methods faced constraints in data availability, geographic coverage, and stakeholder access. Given that no offshore wind projects in India have yet entered construction or operation, the findings are forward-looking and based on projected rather than observed impacts.

These limitations do not undermine the study's recommendations but underscore the need for ongoing research, local engagement, and adaptive policymaking. Recognising these constraints ensures transparency and supports the continued development of socially inclusive offshore wind initiatives in India.

Key limitations of this study are as follows:

- **Present Policy Environment:** India's offshore wind sector is in its formative phase, with several regulatory, spatial planning, and implementation frameworks still under development. As such, the guidance has been developed based on the current policy landscape and may require adaptation as national and state-level policies mature.
- **Limited Data Availability:** In certain areas, the availability of detailed and up-to-date data, particularly regarding fisheries activity, marine spatial usage, and socio-economic baselines was limited. This constrained the depth of quantitative analysis, especially in assessing spatial overlaps between fishing grounds and proposed offshore wind zones in Tamil Nadu.
- **Sampling Strategy:** The stakeholder consultations were conducted remotely in alignment with the agreed project scope. While these engagements yielded valuable qualitative insights, the sampling approach, focused primarily on institutional and representative stakeholders, limited direct interaction with specific community archetypes, such as local fishing communities.

- **Geographic Scope:** The study focuses specifically on Tamil Nadu and a targeted set of international case studies (including Ireland, the UK, South Korea, and others as relevant). While selected for relevance and diversity, the findings may not fully capture the variations present across other Indian coastal states or global contexts.
- **Lack of Domestic Implementation Experience and Examples:** As OSW development in India is yet to reach construction or operational phases, the study could not assess engagement outcomes based on real-world project implementation. Consequently, many insights are drawn from international experiences and projected implications in the context of Tamil Nadu.

1.5 Use of AI in the Report

In alignment with ERM's AI Usage Policy and OEP's Writing Guide, AI tools were utilised solely to ensure consistency in language, improve phrasing efficiency, and maintain clarity and conciseness across contributions. All substantive content in this report is entirely original, derived from primary and secondary research sources. No data or information has been generated by AI.

2 Appendix B: List of Stakeholders Consulted

Table 2.1 List of Stakeholders Interviewed

Date	Stakeholder Category	Interviewee	Organisation	Designation
20 April 2025	Expert	Josephine Cheng & Tony Hong	ERM, Taiwan	Principal Consultant and Consultant, respectively
22 April 2025	Expert	Prof Krish T Sharman	University of Massachusetts Amherst	Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Emeritus Chair in Renewable Energy
24 April 2025	Expert	Courtney French	Coexistiir Offshore Limited	Director
07 May 2025	Expert	Robert Greenwood	Quintham	Founder and CEO
09 May 2025	Expert	Joseph Park	ERM, South Korea	Partner
13 May 2025	Expert	Dr JK Patterson Edward	Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI)	Director
13 May 2025	Investor	Sameer Usganokar	British International Investment (BII)	Director, Head of Project Finance South Asia
14 May 2025	International Developer	Anupama Mohan	Equinor	Sustainability Advisor
03 June 2025	International Developer	Jane Hennessy	Flotation Energy	External Communications Lead
28 May 2025	National Developer	Srijith Menon	Aban Offshore	Head – Green Business

Date	Stakeholder Category	Interviewee	Organisation	Designation
15-05-2025	Government Stakeholders	J C David Solomon	National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)	Director, Monitoring and Testing (M&T) Division
22 May 2025	Government Stakeholders	Varadhranj Sugumaran	Guidance TN	Investment Promotion Manager
19 May 2025	National NGOs	Dr Velvizhi	M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)	Director, Coastal and Marine Systems

3 Appendix C: Research Framework

Table 3.1 Research Framework

#	Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
1	What were the project-specific characteristics and context?	Project Location	Geographic location (latitudes and longitudes of the wind farm) and array area (area of offshore turbines)	NA	- Secondary Research - Developers (International & National)
			Geographic location and area for land-based infrastructure (e.g., substations, transmission lines, etc.)		
			Proximity to coastline (e.g., distance from the shore)		
			Proximity to local communities or populated areas		
			Depth of water (shallow vs. deep-water site)		
			Overall with environmental areas and fishing zones (protected areas, etc.)		
		Technology & Infrastructure	No. of turbines and Types of Turbines (e.g., floating platforms, fixed-bottom foundations)	NA	- Secondary Research - Developers (International & National)
			Installation of turbines (e.g., vessels used, crane sizes, offshore construction timelines)		
			Turbine Capacity (e.g., 10 MW turbines, 5 MW turbines)		
			No. and Type of offshore substations		
			No. and Type of onshore substations		

#	Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
			Description of and transmission lines (existing or new infrastructure) and interconnection with the national or regional grid		
			Description of Inter array cables and offtake cables; subsea cable route (if any)		
			O&M Operation and Maintenance Infrastructure (e.g., roads, access points, maintenance yards, etc.)		
	Output		Total megawatt (MW or GW) capacity of the project (e.g., 100 MW, 500 MW, etc.)	NA	● Secondary Research
			Expected energy production annually (e.g., MWh per year)		● Developers (International & National)
			Contribution to local or national grid		
	Project Duration & Regulatory Context		Number of phases in the project (e.g., initial pilot phase, full-scale deployment)	NA	● Secondary Research
			Duration of each phase (e.g., construction timeline, commissioning date)		● Developers (International & National)
			Government Policies & Regulatory Landscape		● Government Stakeholders
			Developer Selection Criteria		
			Consenting Process		

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		Permitting Process		
		Roles & Responsibilities of Government		
		Roles & Responsibilities of Developers		
		Framework for coordination between government and developers		
2 What were the specific community characteristics and context?	Demographics	Type of people impacted: 1. Fishing Communities 2. Non-Fishing Communities 3. Other Marine Users For each of the categories: 1. No. of people 2. Gender 3. Age 4. Caste 5. Education 6. Household Income	NA	- Secondary Research - Developers (International & National)
	Fishing Communities	Fisheries & Fishing Activities: 1. Type & Scale of Fisheries (Individual, Small Scale, Commercial, Aquaculture, Subsistence, Traditional, Recreational) 2. Target Species 3. Fishing Seasons & Timelines	NA	- Secondary Research - NGOs (International & National)

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		4. Fishing Areas / Designated Zones 5. Methods of Fishing 6. Fishing Fleets & Patterns 7. Total Catch (Annual) 8. Regulatory Aspects (including the current licensing arrangements for fishers, geographical bands/regions for fishing, and/or rudimentary markers in the water, fines issued etc.)		● Fishermen Cooperative Societies (National)
		Economic: ● Market price, earnings and costs, domestic supply, and employment.	NA	●
		Livelihoods ● Fisheries access, catch rates, community dependence, income distribution		
		Physical / Biological: ● Type of benthic habitats ● Composition of species		
	Non- Fishing Communities & Other Marine Users	Types of Other Non-Fishing Communities (such as agricultural labourers, labourers, etc.) working in the proximity and their demographic details Types of other marine users (such as recreational marine users, etc.) and their demographic details	NA	● Secondary Research ● NGOs (International & National)

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		Proximity of their place of work, residence, ore other relevant infrastructures (educational and healthcare) to the shore		
3 What impacts did the project have on the community (positive and negative)?	Negative Impact			
	Environmental & Ecological Impact	Marine Life & Fisheries: ● Impact on fish stocks ● Impact on catch rates for local fisheries ● Changes in fish migration patterns	IFC PS 6 IFC PS 7	● Secondary Research ● International NGOs ● Experts
		Bird Population ● Impact on bird mortality due to turbines ● Impact on bird migration routes		
		Benthic Communities: ● Impact on seabed habitats ● Noise/vibration levels affecting marine species		
	Cultural & Social Impacts	Cultural Heritage & Local Identity: ● Impact on underwater cultural heritage ● Effect on place attachment to landscape ● Impact on cultural, ceremonial and spiritual use of resources and water	IFC PS 7 IFC PS 8 IFC PS 5	● Secondary Research ● International NGOs ● Experts
		Impact on Coastal Residents:		

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		● Impact on real estate value ● Increased pressure on accommodation, social infrastructure and services due to worker influx ● Perceived health impacts (e.g. stress) ● Decreased social cohesion (egg division in opinions on arrival project) in relation to visual intrusion, dust and noise (construction) and lighting.		
	Economic & Commercial Disruptions	Impact on Fisheries & Livelihoods: ● Presence of exclusion zones and buffer zones ● Number of fishermen impacted / displaced by exclusion zones and buffer zones ● Fishing effort impacted / displaced by exclusion zones and buffer zones ● Impact on seasonality of types of fishing ● Economic displacement / loss of livelihoods of fishing communities Impact on Tourism & Recreation: ● Decrease in tourism activities ● Negative feedback from local businesses related to tourism	IFC PS 5	● Secondary Research ● International NGOs ● Experts
	Operational and Safety Concerns	Navigation & Marine Safety: ● Number of collisions or near-miss incidents (due to	IFC PS 2 IFC PS 3	● Secondary

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		increased marine traffic during construction) ● Navigation route disruptions	IFC PS 4	Research ● International NGOs ● Experts
		Installation and Construction Risks: ● Pollution incidents during construction ● Safety incidents during installation		
		Emergency Response: ● Response time to incidents Adequacy of rescue operations and protocols		
	Visual & Aesthetic Impacts	Visual Amenity: ● Number of complaints on visual impact ● Reduction in property values in affected areas	IFC PS 4 IFC PS 5	● Secondary Research ● International NGOs ● Government Stakeholders
	Cumulative Impacts	Interactions Between Multiple Projects: ● Overlapping exclusion zones ● Presence of multiple projects that impact the fishing communities ● Engagement of different project teams working across the same area ● Crossing of offtake cables. Methodology/Process to handle	FC PS 1 here (IFC guidance notes 37 to 43)	● Secondary Research ● International NGOs ● Government Stakeholders

#	Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
			● Accumulated environmental impacts from multiple projects Cumulative Impacts Due to Operations of Project: ● Use of Vessels ● Use of Ports ● Maintenance of Offshore and Onshore Project Components ● Hiring of offshore wind energy industry resources resulting in pressure on skilled resources both for wind energy and other marine/shipyard industry		
			Positive Impact		
		Energy Security & Grid Stability	Cleaner Power & Energy Security: ● Reduction in CO2 emissions ● Percentage of energy from renewable sources Power Grid Stability: ● Grid reliability ● Integration of renewable energy into the grid	IFC PS 3	● Secondary Research ● International NGOs ● Experts
		Economic Development	Job Creation: ● Number of local jobs created ● Has there been any interaction with local education	IFC PS 2	● Secondary Research

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		institutions		● International NGOs
		● Investment in skill development and training		● Experts
		Support for Local Economies:		
		● Growth in local coastal businesses		
	Environmental Benefits	● Economic contribution of offshore projects		
		Reduced Pollution:	IFC PS 3	● Secondary Research
		● Decrease in air pollutants (CO2, NOx, SOx)	IFC PS 6	
		● Carbon footprint reduction	IFC PS 7	● International NGOs
		Marine & Habitat Protection:		● Experts
		● Increase in fish stock		
		● Presence of marine life around turbine foundations		
4 What interventions were implemented to reduce negative impacts or maximise	Community Consultations / Awareness Generation	Levels of Participation from community during different stages of the project:	IFC PS 1	● Secondary Research
		● Information	IFC PS 2	
		● Consultation	IFC PS 5	● International NGOs
		● Conciliation	(Alternate Livelihood Programs)	● Government Stakeholders
		● Partnership		● Experts
		● Delegation		● Investors

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
positive impacts?		Awareness generation: ● Presence of Stakeholder Engagement / Fisheries Liaison Plan ● Targeted stakeholders / beneficiaries for awareness generation ● Project timeline & stage of awareness generation ● Modes of awareness generation (Consultative, Information Dissemination) ● Depth of content and level of transparency and accessibility of information provided for awareness generation ● Collateral used for awareness generation (technical assessments etc) ● Flexibility of including community suggestions/concerns raised during awareness generation ● Strategies used for awareness generation ● R&Rs between govt stakeholders and developers for awareness generation		●

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		Consenting and Consulting Regimes: - ● Targeted stakeholders / beneficiaries for consultations and consenting processes ● Project timeline & stage of for consultations ● Modes of consultations ● Strategies used for consultations Risks of over consultations / Engagement Fatigue ● Opportunity to have a say in decision making design process ● R&Rs between govt stakeholders and developers for consultations ● Consultations (if any) during change of ownership of wind projects Grievances/Complaint Handling Mechanisms: ● Process for Grievance Handing ● Targeted Stakeholders ● Project Timelines & Stages for Grievance Handing ● Feedback channels (email, letter, phone number, website contact form, feedback form at public consultations) ● Access to remedy / implementation of feedback	●	

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
	Social Programs	Capacity Building ● Key Stakeholders ● Education & training for local youth, job creation strategies Infrastructure Development Programs: ● Natural capital (e.g., upgrades to areas of cultural or environmental interest) ● Infrastructure upgrades (e.g., road, harbour, maintenance) ● Electricity discounts ● Facilities or services to complement statutory provisions ● Tourism and facilities e.g., museums or visitor centres ● Biodiversity Net Gain ● Marine Biodiversity Net Gain Compensation or alternative livelihood programs: ● Key Stakeholders ● Type of Compensation/Alternate Livelihood Programs ● Formulations of Such Programs ● Communication of Such Programs Shared Project Ownership Structures		

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
		Formation of community structures by project developers / governments and their success: ● Women Empowerment Networks ● Fishing Community Networks		
		Community Benefits Fund: ● Type of Fund (Local, Regional, Specific Purpose, Collaborative Scheme) ● Fund Structure ● Fund Admin ● Developer Fund Investment ● Access to Funds ● Beneficiary of Funds ● Job Creation ● Communication Programs ● Fund Governance		
	Regulatory and Policy Interventions	● Collaborative policy-making, conflict resolution mechanisms		
5 Were these interventions successful in	Community Acceptance	● Community feedback (satisfaction surveys, public consultations) ● Incorporation of community feedback in the project	NA	● Secondary Research ● International NGOs

# Research Question	Area of Enquiry	Indicators	Applicability (IFC PS)	Data Sources
addressing the community's needs and concerns?		Support for the project (local leaders, local organisations, general public)		Government Stakeholders
	Timeliness & Delays	Project completion within proposed timelines		Experts
		Unforeseen delays (construction delays, regulatory hold-ups, funding delays)		Investors
	Conflict Resolution and Stakeholder Engagement	Number and nature of disputes or conflicts (fishermen, local residents)		
		Effectiveness of conflict resolution mechanisms (mitigation, compensation)		
	Return on Investment (ROI)	Financial success of the project (project cost vs. revenue generation)		
		Job creation, economic benefits, and infrastructure improvement (local ROI)		

4 Appendix D: Graphics

Figure 4.1 Trawling

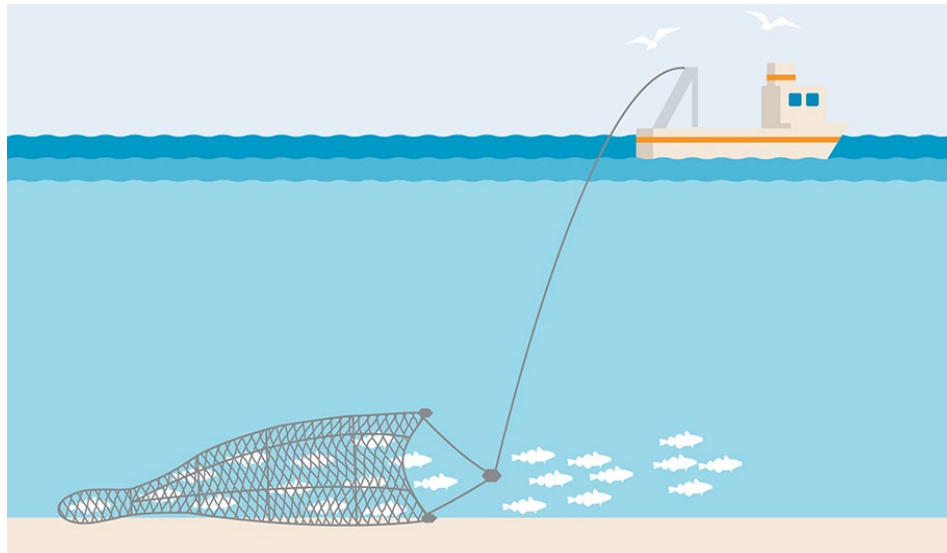


Image of Bottom Trawl Fishing¹

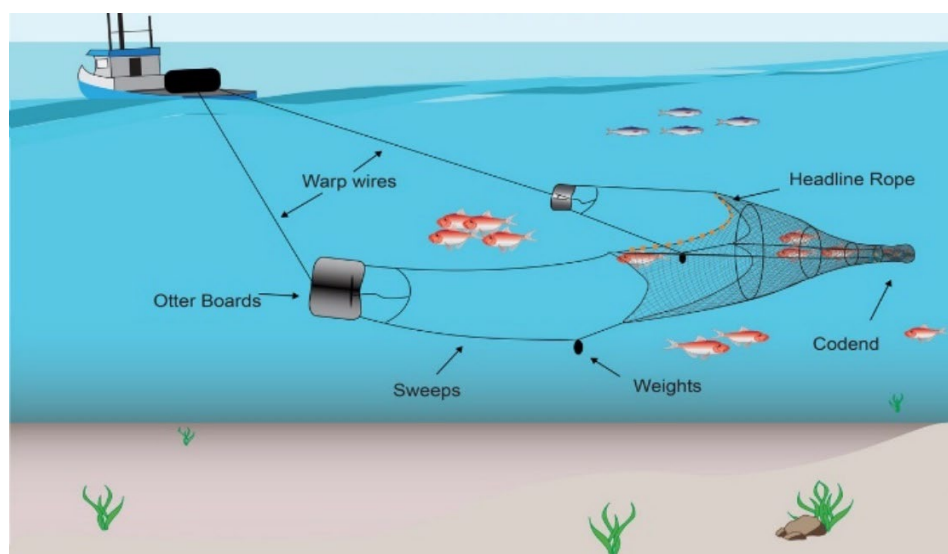
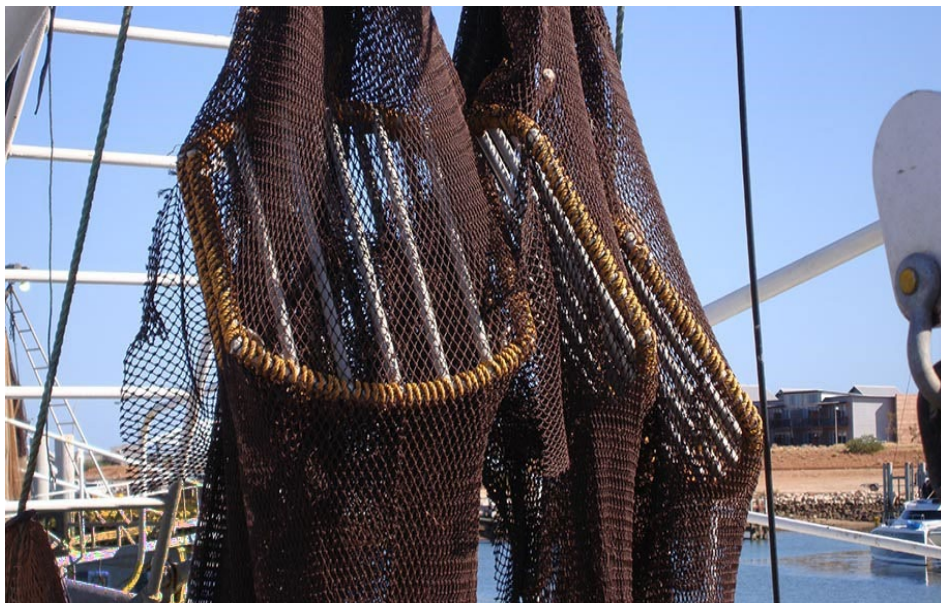
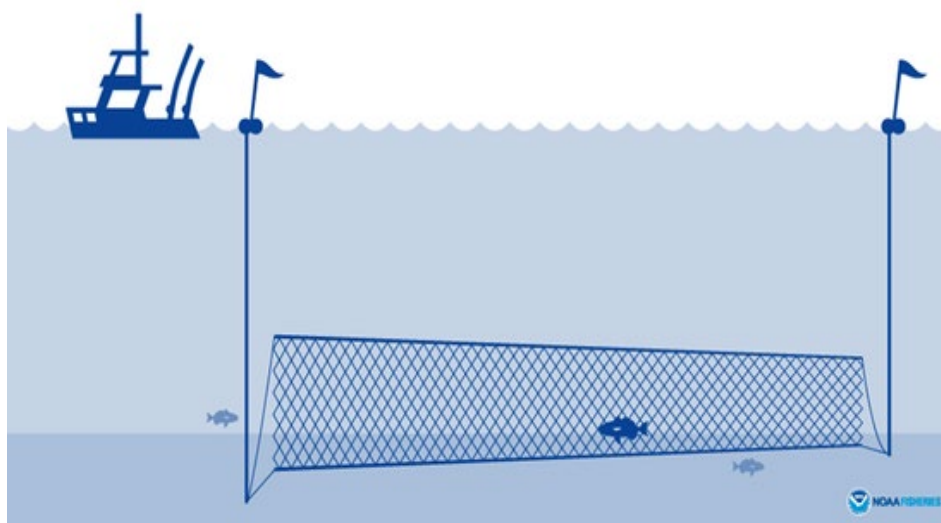


Image of Pelagic Fishing²

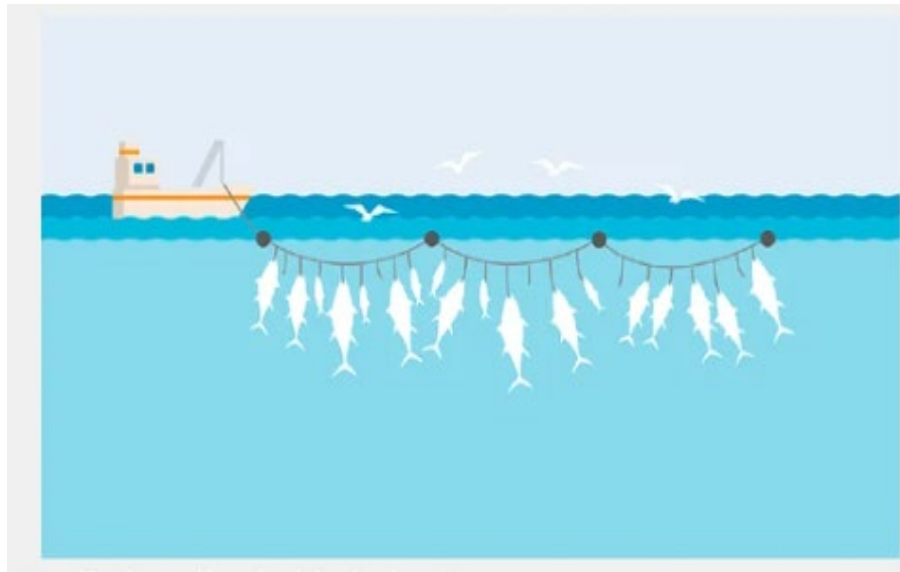
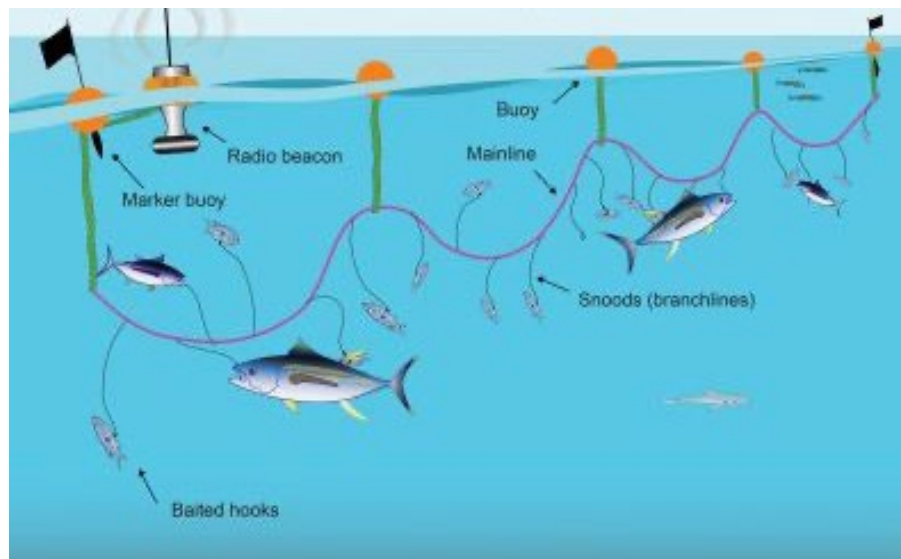
¹ Marine Stewardship Council. (n.d.). *Demersal or bottom trawl*. Retrieved from <https://www.msc.org/what-we-are-doing/our-approach/fishing-methods-and-gear-types/demersal-or-bottom-trawls>

² Australian Fisheries Management Authority. (n.d.). *Trawling | Methods and gear*. <https://www.afma.gov.au/methods-and-gear/trawling>

Figure 4.2 Gill NettingImage of Gill Net Fishing³Image of Gill Net Fishing⁴

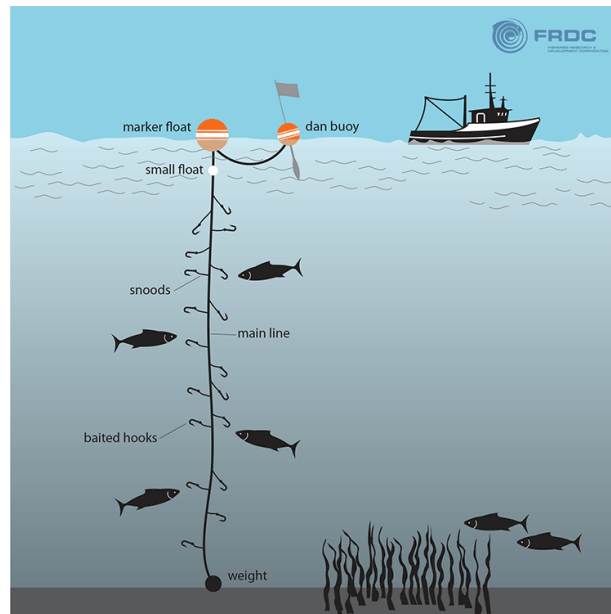
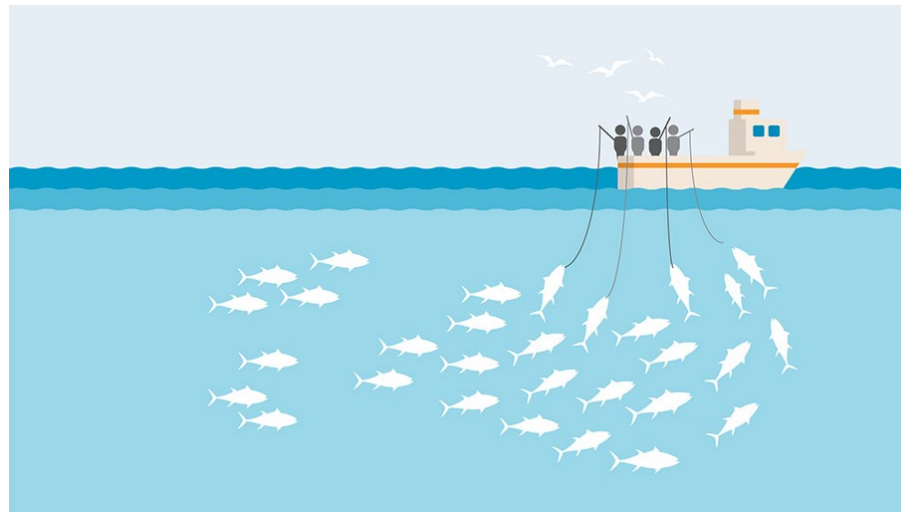
³ Marine Stewardship Council. (n.d.). *Demersal or bottom trawl*. Retrieved from <https://www.msc.org/what-we-are-doing/our-approach/fishing-methods-and-gear-types/demersal-or-bottom-trawls>

⁴ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. (n.d.). *Fishing Gear: Gillnets*. Retrieved from <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/bycatch/fishing-gear-gillnets>

Figure 4.3 Longlining GearImage of Longlining Fishing Gear⁵Image of Longlining Fishing Gear⁶

⁵ Our World in Data. (2021, October). *Fish and overfishing*. Retrieved from <https://ourworldindata.org/fish-and-overfishing>

⁶ Australian Fisheries Management Authority. (n.d.). *Trawling | Methods and gear*. <https://www.afma.gov.au/methods-and-gear/trawling>

Figure 4.4 Hook and Line Fishing gearImage of Hook and Line Fishing Gear⁷Image of Hook and Line Fishing Gear⁸

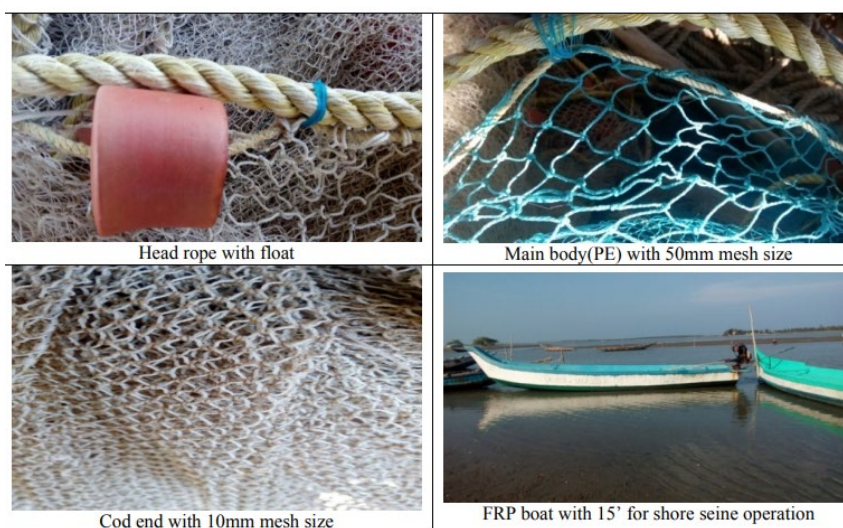
⁷ Australian Fisheries Management Authority. (n.d.). Hook and line. Retrieved from

⁸ Marine Stewardship Council. (n.d.). Pole and line fishing gear. Retrieved from <https://www.msc.org/en-us/what-we-are-doing/our-approach/fishing-methods-gear-types/pole-and-line>

Figure 4.5 Shore Seines gearImage of Shore Seiners of Tamil Nadu⁹Image of Karaivalai fishing¹⁰

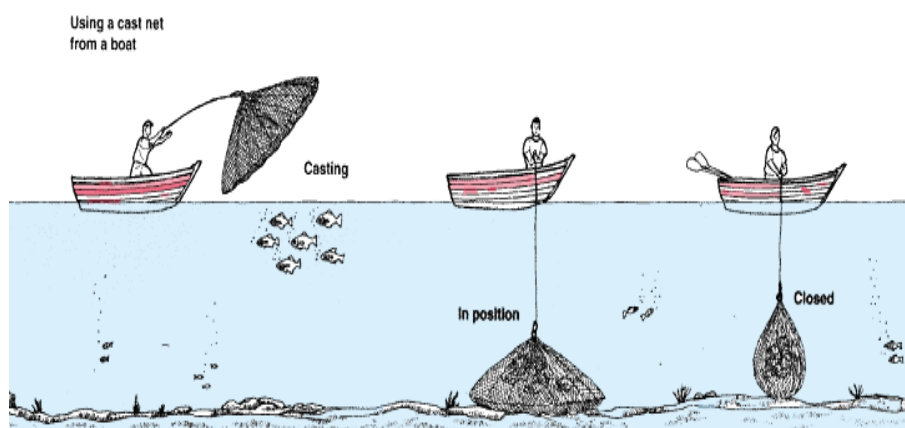
9 Vaidyanathan, T. (2023, May 11). Pulling at destiny: The shore seiners of Tamil Nadu. Nature in Focus <https://www.natureinfocus.in/environment/pulling-at-destiny-the-shore-seiners-of-tamil-nadu>

10 Unknown Author. (n.d.). [YouTube video]. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBcvqda2dkM>

Figure 4.6 Traditional BoatsImage of Kattumaram boat¹¹Image of seine nets fishing gears of Pullicat coast, Tamil Nadu, India¹²

11 Pohl, H. (2007). From the kattumaram to the fibre-teppa—changes in boat-building traditions on India's east coast. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, 36(2), 382-408. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Drifting-wooden-teppa-with-half-set-sail-Puri-H-Pohl_fig22_227846540

1212 *International Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Studies*. Retrieved from <https://www.fisheriesjournal.com/archives/2017/vol5issue3/PartC/5-2-76-728.pdf>

Figure 4.7 Traditional Fishing GearImage of cast net dropping¹³Image of types of cast fishing gear¹⁴

13 ETB Sivapriyan. (2025, March 3). Tamil Nadu to open fishnet collection centers in all coastal districts. Deccan Herald. Retrieved from <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-to-open-fishnet-collection-centers-in-all-coastal-districts-3429725>

14 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.). Fishing gear and methods – Training manual [Section on fishing gear tools]. Retrieved from https://www.fao.org/fishery/static/FAO_Training/FAO_Training/General/x6709e/x6709e08.html

Figure 4.8 Community Engagement Principles Across Phases (1/2)

					
	Start with Open-Ended, Listening-Oriented Engagement	Use Trusted Intermediaries	Ensure Inclusive & Balanced Representation	Translate and Localize All Information	Schedule Engagements Aligning with Fishing Community Routines
WHY IT MATTERS	<i>Builds trust before any formal agenda is introduced.</i>	<i>Outsiders may not be trusted, if project risks are unclear</i>	<i>Fisher groups vary by gear type, caste, religion, age, gender, and seasonality</i>	<i>Without access to knowledge, communities can't meaningfully participate.</i>	<i>Fishers are daily-wage workers; attending a meeting may mean lost income.</i>
WHAT TO DO	Begin with exploratory sessions (not project briefings) where fisherfolk, SHGs, and local actors can voice their concerns, and dependencies on the sea.	Work through local religious leaders, fisheries co-ops, or community influencers. In Tamil Nadu, churches, caste elders, and women SHG leaders have historically been powerful change agents.	Form small, rotating cluster-level consultation groups, ensuring space for underrepresented voices like migrant fishers, women in processing, and seasonal workers.	Use Tamil (written and spoken), visual aids, maps, and oral storytelling methods. Make materials accessible in landing centres, SHG halls, and libraries.	Avoid mornings or post-landing times; hold sessions in afternoons or rest periods, aligned with local tides and seasons.

Figure 4.9 Community Engagement Principles Across Phases (2/2)

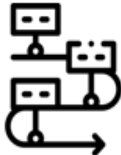
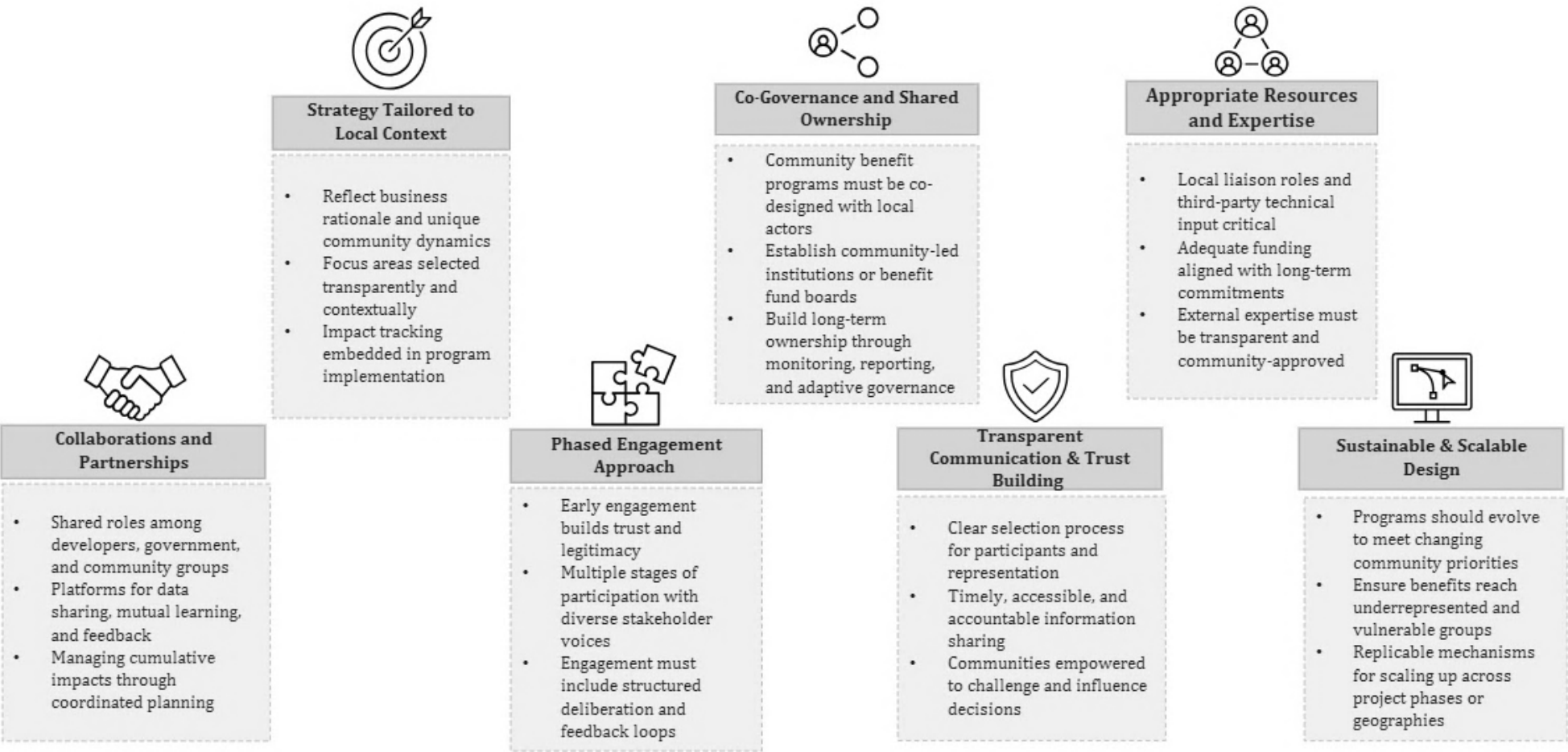
					
	Commit to Two-Way Dialogue	Embed Continuity Through All Phases	Value informal formats alongside formal hearings	Anticipate & support fair resolution of disagreements	Co-create knowledge with local expertise and institutions
WHY IT MATTERS	One-way "information sessions" erode trust.	Communities need consistent contact, not "stop-start" consultations.	Formal meetings often exclude informal leaders or seasonal fishers.	Compensation conflicts and inter-village tensions are common and predictable.	Scientific studies are more trusted when local people are part of the process.
WHAT TO DO	Create structured feedback loops (e.g., impact response matrices, public dashboards) showing how community feedback shaped project plans.	Appoint long-term CLOs/FLOs from the local area, who stay engaged from feasibility to decommissioning and act as a constant point of contact	Use story circles, street theatre, tea-shop conversations, and festivals to gather input — particularly from those least likely to attend hearings.	Pre-agree dispute resolution protocols involving neutral actors (e.g., Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authority, fisheries officers) and schedule space for community negotiations	Partner with institutions like CMFRI, SDMRI, MSSW and SHGs to jointly design and conduct impact studies, especially on fisheries and biodiversity.

Figure 4.10 Building Blocks of Effective Social Programmes



5 Appendix E: Checklists and Practical Resources

Table 5.1 Inclusive Community Consultation Checklist for Project Developers¹⁵

Category	Checklist Item	Key Considerations/Good Practice
Whom to Consult	Identify local residents and businesses	Include those within and near the project's direct impact zone
	Engage elected representatives	Include panchayat/ward members, local councilors, MLAs/MPs
	Consult statutory consultees and regulatory bodies	As required under applicable laws/regulations (e.g., EIA, Marine Works)
	Involve landowners and occupiers	Especially those with ownership, tenancy, or rights to affected land
	Reach "seldom-heard" or marginalised groups	Use targeted outreach to ensure participation of women, elderly, low-income, or minority groups
	Include special interest groups	Such as fisheries, environment, heritage, or recreation associations
When to Consult	Initiate engagement early	Before key design decisions are finalised; during concept and scoping phases
	Maintain continuous engagement	At non-statutory (early), statutory, and post-consultation stages
	Align with project milestones	Key stages: route/site selection, EIA scoping, and final application
	Provide sufficient consultation period	Minimum 28 days; extend to allow meaningful participation
What to Consult On	Project scope and design options	Turbine layouts, cable routes, substation locations, construction footprints
	Environmental and social	Findings of EIAs/Preliminary

¹⁵ [Statement of Community Consultations, Mona Offshore Wind Project](#)

Category	Checklist Item	Key Considerations/Good Practice
	impacts	Environmental Information Report (PEIRs) and proposed mitigation measures
	Community concerns and priorities	Seek views on local impacts, safety, livelihoods, and benefits
	Construction phase management	Access, traffic, timing, and disruption mitigation
	Benefit-creation opportunities	Employment, CSR initiatives, skill-building programs
Where to Consult	Select accessible venues	Community halls, schools, or local centres convenient to daily routines
	Use a defined consultation zone	Reflecting likely direct and indirect impacts of the project
	Include online engagement	For wider reach beyond physical locations
	Deploy mobile/pop-up events	Engage people in marketplaces, near transport hubs, or coastal areas
How to Consult	Use multiple communication channels	Combine in-person, online, and written modes (brochures, newsletters, website)
	Ensure materials are simple and visual	Use clear language, bilingual infographics, maps, and translated content if needed
	Record and share consultation outcomes	Publish summaries of feedback and explain how it informed decisions
	Offer flexible participation options	Evening sessions, recorded webinars, and online feedback forms
	Track and respond to feedback	Document stakeholder input and incorporate changes where feasible

Table 5.2 Considerations for Designing a Community Benefit Programme¹⁶

S.N.	Theme	Considerations	
Fund Structure			
1	Legal Agreements	Are formal agreements in place between developers and local authorities or communities?	☐
2	Legal Agreements	Are the terms of fund disbursement and obligations legally binding?	☐
3	Indexation & Contributions	Is the fund indexed to the annual retail price index to maintain value over time?	☐
4	Indexation & Contributions	Are contributions from developers based on installed capacity or other fair metrics?	☐
5	Voluntary vs. Regulatory Basis	Are contributions made on a voluntary, policy, or regulatory basis?	☐
6	Voluntary vs. Regulatory Basis	Are discount schemes (e.g. electricity discounts) considered for host communities?	☐
7	Fund Ring-Fencing¹⁷	Is any portion of the fund ring fenced for specific local stakeholders (e.g., fishing fleet, tourism groups)?	☐
Fund Administration			
8	Managing Entity	Is a single, centralised authority or a coalition managing fund administration?	☐
9	Managing Entity	Is the administrator a public body, developer, or community entity?	☐
10	Transparency	Are governance and decision-making procedures publicly accessible?	☐
11	Transparency	Are conflicts of interest disclosed and mitigated?	☐
12	Distribution Mechanism	Is the mechanism for disbursement timely, auditable, and responsive to local needs?	☐
Developer Fund Investment (Non-Statutory)			
13	Local Boosts	Are developers offering direct investments in local projects (e.g., schools, tourism, heritage, other CSR projects)?	☐

¹⁶ IEA Community Benefit¹⁷ To ring-fence a grant or fund means to put restrictions on it, so that it can only be used for a particular purpose

S.N.	Theme	Considerations	
14	Local Boosts	Is there support for infrastructure or one-off local economic boosts?	☐
15	Employment & Training	Are investments focused on employment generation, training, apprenticeships, or technical education?	☐
Fund Governance			
16	Community Capacity & Resource	Does the recipient group have capacity (skills, staffing, systems) to manage funds effectively?	☐
17	Governance Process	Will regular review/oversight meetings be held?	☐
18	Governance Process	Is there an open, transparent application and assessment process?	☐
19	Governance Process	Are there clear eligibility criteria (for qualification of beneficiaries) and conflict of interest policies in place?	☐
Fund Scale			
20	Fund Adequacy	Does the fund size reflect the project scale, duration, and local impact?	☐
21	Fund Adequacy	For large funds, has financial governance capacity been ensured?	☐
22	Fund Adequacy	Is the fund sufficient to provide ongoing support through project decommissioning if needed?	☐
Access to Funds			
23	Accessibility	Can communities access the fund through a simple, inclusive application process?	☐
24	Accessibility	Are local NGOs, charities, and community groups eligible applicants?	☐
25	Developer Partnership	Are developers collaborating with local governments for streamlined access and support?	☐
26	Developer Partnership	Are regional disparities in access addressed?	☐
Beneficiaries of Funds			

S.N.	Theme	Considerations	
27	Target Groups	Are vulnerable and affected groups prioritised (e.g., fishers, coastal communities)?	☐
28	Target Groups	Are environmental trusts, education providers, and tourism groups included?	☐
29	Types of Support	Is funding allocated for local exhibitions, visitor centres, skills training, and bursary schemes?	☐
Job Creation			
30	Local Employment	Are job opportunities linked to regional supply chains and local businesses?	☐
31	Local Employment	Are local contractors and labourers given preference during construction and O&M phases?	☐
32	Skills & Training	Are technical training programs (e.g., wind technician apprenticeships) supported?	☐
33	Skills & Training	Are partnerships with local colleges or ITIs in place for workforce development?	☐
Communication & Engagement Programmes			
34	Awareness	Are awareness programmes conducted in schools and communities (e.g., renewable energy workshops)?	☐
35	Awareness	Are climate and sustainability education initiatives supported?	☐
36	Inclusion	Are communication materials multilingual and inclusive of marginalised groups?	☐
37	Inclusion	Are community suggestions and feedback mechanisms institutionalised?	☐
38	Visibility	Are the benefits publicised transparently to avoid misinformation or perceptions of unfairness?	☐
Spatial Planning & Equity Considerations			
39	Site-Specific Impact	Has the proximity to ports, coastal towns, and sensitive marine areas been assessed?	☐
40	Site-Specific Impact	Has the proximity to ports, coastal towns, and sensitive marine areas been assessed?	☐

S.N.	Theme	Considerations	
41	Hierarchy Approach	Is a concentric hierarchy approach adopted for benefit distribution (e.g., 1km, 3km, 5km radius)?	☐
Lifecycle Integration			
42	Planning Stage	Was the community engaged in benefit design prior to full consultation?	☐
43	Planning Stage	Was there an initial scoping of local needs and capacities?	☐
44	Construction Stage	Are short-term impacts (e.g., noise, traffic, access) offset through immediate community support?	☐
45	Operations Stage	Are ongoing benefits tied to the lifecycle of the wind farm (e.g., annual disbursements, O&M training)?	☐
46	Decommissioning Stage	Are legacy benefits or site restoration commitments part of the fund's scope?	☐
47	Decommissioning Stage	Are long-term economic transitions (post-project) supported?	☐

Table 5.3 Toolkit for Designing and Implementing community Benefit Funds and Social Value Programmes

Theme	Key Considerations/Good Practice	Implementation Tip
Governance & Transparency	Establish inclusive fund management committees with fisher groups, SHGs, and panchayats	Develop clear terms of reference, decision-making protocols, and public reporting mechanisms
Needs Assessment	Conduct participatory scoping to identify community priorities (health, education, livelihoods)	Use surveys, focus groups, and local consultations before fund allocation
Fund Design & Duration	Structure multi-year, adaptive funding cycles tied to project phases	Develop 5–25 year disbursement plans with periodic reviews
Equity & Access	Prioritise affected and vulnerable groups for benefits	Simplify application procedures and ensure materials are multilingual
Alignment with Local Development	Align fund objectives with district or state development plans	Collaborate with local government departments for synergy
Upskilling & Employment	Link funds to local workforce training, apprenticeships, and technical education	Partner with ITIs, marine institutes, and renewable energy training centres
Social Value Integration	Define measurable social performance indicators (jobs, education access, health outcomes)	Include social metrics in developer reporting and regulatory monitoring
Partnerships & Co-Financing	Encourage joint management between developers, NGOs, and public agencies	Formalise MoUs or co-financing agreements for programme sustainability
Feedback & Monitoring	Build continuous feedback loops with community representatives	Conduct annual audits and adapt fund priorities based on outcomes
Communication & Visibility	Publicise fund outcomes and social impacts to strengthen trust	Use local media, exhibitions, and transparent dashboards for updates

Table 5.4 Community Liaison Officers and Fisheries Liaison Officers

	Community Liaison Officer (CLO)	Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)
Why the Role?	● First point of contact for local communities near offshore wind projects ● Builds awareness, addresses local concerns, manages complaints and feedback	● Facilitates safe coexistence by proactively coordinating project activities and information dissemination with fishing schedules, reducing operational conflicts and fostering mutual trust ● Formalises communication between project developers and fisheries stakeholders, ensuring compliance and accountability
Who Should Appoint Them?	● Should be local and developer-appointed since they understand community culture, language sensitivities ● Developer appointment ensures responsiveness and transparency; government role is not typical at project stage	● Fisheries industry liaison requires bespoke knowledge, existing relationships, and practical experience on local vessels ● Developer retains FLO to meet licence obligations; government oversees compliance overall
What are their Responsibilities?	● Build and maintain networks with residents, landowners, community groups, local officials ● Host community events, consultations, briefings, newsletters; promote local benefits/supply chain ● Handle queries, concerns, complaints promptly; log and feed back to project team; track media and local sentiment	● Maintain a detailed fisheries stakeholder database for vessel operation, gear types, seasonal activity ● Organise and participate in Fisheries Working Group meetings and regulator liaison ● Share project schedules, safety zone info, survey and construction timing to fisheries stakeholders; issue notices ● Provide advice on liaison, develop SOPs, manage relocation of static gear and damage claims



About Ocean Energy Pathway

Ocean Energy Pathway accelerates global offshore wind growth through programmes which support the energy transition, enhance marine ecosystems and empower local communities. We provide expert, independent support to governments and key decision makers to fast-track offshore wind worldwide. Through collaboration with leaders in policy, industry, and conservation, we help shape sustainable solutions for the long-term growth of offshore wind. Ocean Energy Pathway owns the offshore wind POWER Library, in collaboration with Climate Policy Radar, to help policymakers easily find curated reports and policies related to offshore wind. Headquartered in the UK, we work in Australia, Brazil, Colombia, India, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam with ongoing projects in several other countries. Learn more [here](#).



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