The Ninth Biennial Conference of the IASCP

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 17-21 June 2002

Panel:

Transcending barriers: The role of networks in natural resource management

Co-chairs: Lars T Soeftestad and Webster Whande

Panel participants

- Boubacar Ba – IASCP-West Africa; Mopti, Mali

- Nico Rozemeijer – SNV/IUCN CBNRM Support Program; Gaborone, Botswana

- Lars T. Soeftestad – CBNRM Networking; Kristiansand, Norway

- Webster Whande – PLAAS, University of the Western Cape; Bellville, South Africa

Paper no. 1

Author: Boubacar Ba

Title: Approaches to the IASCP regionalization process at the level of the West-African French-speaking sub-region

Email: eveil@afribone.net.ml

Ouagadougou meeting (Sept. 2001), Results

- Discussions of proposals for the IASCP 2002 conference

- Adoption of a strategy for 2001-2002

- Coordination regarding follow-up activities

- Identification of themes for papers and panels

- Definition of appropriate orientation based on available information

Partnership & exchange between actors, networks & institutions

Actors in the community	Emergent local networks

- Institutions for: water, pasture, water and forest management
- Chief/village council

- NAAM groups (Burkina)
- UPS (Mali)
- AREN (Niger)
- CCA ONG (Mali)
- CONGRAD (Senegal)

Tools coming with follow up:
- IASCP
- CBNRM Net
- Land Net
- News reports and journal

Institutional and legal space:
- State of right
- Democratic governance
- Decentralization
- Intermediary mechanism

IASCP vs West Africa network: comparison re: regionalization, I

Means of action	IASCP level network

IASCP

- Biennial conference
- Capitalization of experiences
- Scientific publications

- An international network for study and research capitalization

W. Africa reg. co-ordination

- Advocacy
- Lobbying
- Thematic training

- Informal structure of information and relationship facilitation between IASCP and local networks

IASCP vs West Africa network: comparison re: regionalization, II

Means of action

IASCP level network

Emergent local networks

- Institutional initiative

- Mediation

- Local institutions intermediaries

- Organizations and structures – ownership of local populations, managers of natural resources

Institutions and/or traditional authorities

- Local management of resources

- Intermediation

- Org. & consultation w/ actors

- Direct manager actors and guarantors of natural resources permanence

IASCP vs West Africa network: comparison of contributions, I

IASCP	French W Africa network

Technical contribution

- The legal status of the concept 'common resources'
- Presentation of experiences at biennial conferences
- Comparative analyses of common resources management

Technical contribution

- Organization of an informal network of capitalization of IASCP experience
- Org. of thematic workshops valuing local knowledge of emergent institutions
- Analysis, exchange and development of viable tools for common resource management

IASCP vs West Africa network: comparison of contributions, II

IASCP	French W Africa network

Institutional contribution

- Dissemination of studies and research on common resources
- Use of the new technologies of ICTs
- Constitution of a documentary basis on bibliographical references

Institutional contribution

- Constitution of local news reports (e.g. GRAF info.)
- Capacities reinforcement of local networks (e.g. Land Africa, CCA ONG, CONCAD)
- Info. about the principles and recommendations expressed by emergent networks on common resources management

Future activities

- Short term activities (1 yr)
  (1) develop list serve, (2) reinforce networks, (3) translate documents into French, (4) publish report with Digest, CBNRM Net and Graf Info., (5) organize workshops

- Medium term activities (3 yrs)
  (1) create web site or use existing site, (2) bibl. references in French, (3) programs of research, (4) follow-up, incl. coordination team

Paper no. 2

Author: Nico Rozemeijer

Title: Network who? The impact of "networks" on the participation of communities in Community-based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) in Botswana

Email: information@cbnrm.bw

URL: http://www.cbnrm.bw

Aims

Aim of paper

- To question the impact of 'networks' on the participation of communities in CBNRM in Botswana from a specific CBNRM Support Program implementation point of view

Aim of the CBNRM Support Program

- To create an enabling environment for CBNRM by enhancing: (1) information-sharing among stake-holders, (2) learning by practitioners, and (3) coordination between stakeholders

Three networking roles and objectives of the programme

1. **Web site**
   (1) Provide rel. background info., (2) Inform on current issues, (3) Generate debate on the CBNRM approach

2. **Occasional Paper Series**
   (1) Document lessons learnt, (2) Disseminate practical information to CBNRM practitioners

3. **National CBNRM Forum**
   (1) Provide a platform for broad stakeholder dialogue and input in decision-making, (2) encourage coordination and cooperation between stakeholders, (3) further develop the CBNRM concept in Botswana

A mid-term programme review revealed

- **The web site is for academics**
  (1) users have mainly academic interests, (2) nearly all visitors from outside Botswana, (3) limited contribution to further development of CBNRM within Botswana

- **Papers require reading**
  (1) CBOs do generally not absorb written information, (2) little interest in receiving "long and wordy" publications

- **CBNRM Forum add. layer of consultation**
  (1) not all CBOs are members, (2) communication between natl. level and individual CBOs is poor, (3) risk: additional layer of consultation makes communities less vocal

Conclusions

- Networking might be useful in CBNRM policy formulation and conceptual debate

- To establish networks that assist CBOs in shaping and applying CBNRM proves to be more difficult

Paper no. 3

Author: Lars T Soeftestad

Title: *CBNRM Net*: Knowledge management and networking for the global CBNRM community of practice

Email: mail@cbnrm.net

URL: http://www.cbnrm.net

Background

- CBNRM Net grew out of networking activities, policy-level work, training and operational work in the World Bank, incl.:
  - The Bank's Common Property Resource Management Network (CPRNet)
  - Intl. workshop on CBNRM, Washington D.C., May 1998

Rationale

- Serve the global CBNRM community of practice
- Connect CBNRM stakeholders
- Provide CBNRM knowledge management services, incl.:
  - (1) Collection of knowledge
  - (2) Use of knowledge
  - (3) Production of knowledge

Management

- ICTs – WWW vs. mail
- Membership
- Geographic focus
- Constraints and incentives

Network issues

- Sustainable development & poverty alleviation

- Scale – societal levels & comparative advantages

Lessons & future

- Networks to span public & private sector and civil society to be optimally effective
- ICTs misused
- Networks again North-South axis and for South-South Axis
- Further decentralization
- Collaborate with local networks and NGOs
- Advice on project implementation

Paper no. 4

Author: Webster Whande

Title: Networking for NRM. Reconciling the technology gap between rural communities and urban decision makers in Southern Africa

Email: wwhande@uwc.ac.za

URL: http://www.cbnrm.uwc.ac.za

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