Participatory Planning
Fostering Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainable Land Management

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Introduction

» Human needs, population growth, social and environmental issues
» Solving complex environmental issues requires new approaches
» The role of participatory approaches in achieving more sustainable land management

» Participatory planning and decision making is powerful, but an underutilized tool, for engaging land users and community in sustainable land use and community development
  > involving land users, planners and policy-makers at all levels

» The methodology of participatory planning has been created in order to solve complex interdisciplinary problems which require both local and scientific knowledge

» Driven bottom-up by local needs and priorities, and top-down by regulatory responsibilities
  - Must be adaptive, and evolving dynamically with changing conditions
Objectives

» Examine the concept of participatory approaches with a view of improving planning efficiency for sustainability

» Explore factors that need to be considered in involving land users / communities in planning and decision making

» Examine:
  > Which instances participatory planning can be of use,
  > Whether it can be used in planning in general,
  > What are the advantages of using participatory planning and what are the disadvantages, and
  > The experiences from using such approaches in both Iceland and Ghana

» Develop recommendations for implementing participatory planning and decision making to improve sustainable use of natural resources while maximizing benefits to end users
Research approach

» Extensive literature review

» Survey among stakeholders in Iceland and Ghana involved in management, conservation and restoration of natural resources
  > Representing community or organizations were purposively selected on the basis of their experiences in farming and land management, science and provision of advisory services
  > Semi-structured interviews

» 28 key-informants, 18 in Iceland and 10 in Ghana

» A descriptive analysis
Results

» Informants had extensive experience in the agricultural – land use management sector

» Most people who used participatory planning processes had found that their projects had in fact met their goals

» Communication networks among farmers at the grass root level is very important

» Incentives are important to farmers both in Iceland and in Ghana
"What comes to mind when you hear phrases such as 'participatory planning?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Engaging Community</th>
<th>Relationships</th>
<th>Trust</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>14.3</td>
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</table>

Motivations for involving community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Better results</th>
<th>Save fund</th>
<th>More democratic</th>
<th>Best way to solve complex problems</th>
<th>Learning a lot from Experience</th>
<th>Solve planning problems</th>
<th>others</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>21.4</td>
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</table>
Levels of Community Involvement / participation at the four Stages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Community Involvement</th>
<th>Number of Respondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Involvement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very Involvement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Involved</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Involved</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completely Involved</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation/Maintenance 4th stage</td>
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</table>

Legend:
- Blue: Visioning/Initiation 1st stage
- Red: Planning/Design 2nd stage
- Green: Implementation 3rd stage
- Purple: Evaluation/Maintenance 4th stage
Results cont

» The most important thing for making participatory planning successful was explaining to farmers and landowners, **WHY** they should do any planning at all

» Suggesting for improvements in Farmers Heal the Land project, was increased monitoring and evaluation of the project

» Communication, feedback, dissemination of information and learning process

» The study came out with a recommended guideline on the participatory planning approach
The voice of women

One of our Ghanaian President - Busia said “if you educate a Woman you educate a nation, but if you educate a Man you have educated an individual”
Discussion

» Involving communities save funds

» Most project's goal was how to improve the land and improving the land, enough food and that also improves livelihood

» Incentives are very little used, as tool for participatory planning but could be very important especially to farmers
Engaging stakeholders

get better results with participatory planning.
Conclusions / Recommendations
In conclusion participatory approaches is a good tool
» Fosters community engagement
» Build relationships through trust and transparency
» Identifies gaps or barriers, access and increase local community involvement, i.e. the gap between the organizations and the local communities
» Creates a platform for learning together, and consensus building,
» Empowers, all voice are heard and integrated, commitment to address the problem,
» Change lives of the people (i.e. increased in productivity, diversity in environment and activities).
Conclusions / Recommendations. Cont.

» Reduce risk of conflict and delays / ensure stable operating environment, enforcement and compliance

» The concept of participatory process is easy to advocate but difficult in practice.
Participatory planning and decision making is the key to success; let us all joint hands to make the world a better place for humanity.

Thank you very much for Listening