

Wageningen International

Developing case studies on Adaptive Management in practice

Introduction

The tailor-made training programme “Adaptive Collaborative Management (ACM) in multi-stakeholder forested landscapes: learning through active experience” started in 2006 and aims to contribute to improved management of natural resources for community livelihood improvement and environmental sustainability in the Southern/Eastern African Region. The project aims to build the capacity of the existing regional ACM network (extension staff, trainers, researchers, policy developers, natural resource managers) to mainstream ACM approaches in their institutions hereby expanding the network of ACM practitioners. The approach is to link field-based activities and learning/training programmes through an active network of ACM practitioners. This is reflected in the current project intervention strategy through three interrelated components:

1. *Facilitating the process of linking theory to practice.* The existing (and expanding) network of ACM practitioners applying ACM will be facilitated to draw lessons from application, critically reflect and feed back into theory and practice. The Project allows for reflection, coaching support and an interactive website to encourage sharing of experiences and to analyse ACM methodology changes required.
2. *Strengthening the ACM network.* With Wageningen International playing a catalysing role, it is the ACM network that drives the “theory-practice” application (component 1) through the established ACM web-based learning platform. The capacity of 10 network members will be strengthened in a “write shop” in which lessons from ACM application are drawn and reflected in quality documents for publication and dissemination.
3. *Expanding the ACM network.* The strengthened ACM network will be instrumental in the delivery of a 2-weeks course on “Adaptive Collaborative Management in multi-stakeholder forested landscapes: learning through active experience” to interested NRM professionals in the Region. The short course will allow the Network to expand with another 20 professionals with the aim of building their capacity to mainstream ACM in their respective institutions.

The write shop in June 2008

From Monday 2 June – Friday 6 June a 5-day reflection workshop or “write shop” is planned for 10 network participants for sharing field experiences, lessons learnt and analysing methodology changes required. The write shop will “generate case studies on ACM practice” and aims to strengthen the analytical and (academic) writing skills of participants to draw and formulate lessons learnt. The write shop will be organised with support of Khanya NGO in South Africa and facilitated by staff of Wageningen International. In the run-up of the write shop members of the ACM network are invited to indicate their interest to participate by submitting a first outline of their proposed paper.

Have you been applying Adaptive (Collaborative) Management (ACM) principles in your working practice with positive or negative natural resource management and/or rural development impact, and have you derived lessons from this experience? Have you further researched the



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design and applicability of ACM concepts and are you interested to share your expertise and experience with the network? If so, then this write shop is something for you!

What is the regional ACM network?

The regional ACM network is a growing (informal) Community of Practice of practitioners working in natural resources management fields in Southern/Eastern Africa and applying adaptive management principles. The network includes amongst others:

- The CIFOR ACM network in existence since 2004;
- Participants of the Wageningen International (formerly IAC) Forestry as well as the Leadership and Adaptive Management short courses;
- Adaptive management practitioners in Southern and Eastern Africa.

The website of the Regional ACM Network is:
<http://portals.wi.wur.nl/ACMnetwork/>

Time planning Write shop

15th of March 2008: expression of interest and submission of first outline of paper;

1st of April: selection of 10 cases (refer to the selection criteria on the website);

April/May: coaching on-line during writing process;

15th of May: submission draft paper

2nd of June: Write shop to share experiences and finalise papers; and

September 2008: publication reader.

Objectives of the write shop

1. To enable and build capacity of regional ACM network members to reflect and share experiences on ACM approaches in their working practice;
2. To enhance the academic writing skills of network members;
3. To contribute to the further development of ACM approaches in natural resources management in Africa.

“Costs and benefits”

The project is NUFFIC-financed and all your costs will be reimbursed as per NUFFIC regulations (international travel, visa, travel costs in South Africa, hotel and subsistence costs in South Africa, and a small out-of-pocket allowance). To cover in-your country expenses in preparation for the write-shop to collect data for your case such as transport, copying, communication and other research costs we have available a stipend of Euro 500 per case. As a less monetary benefit your paper will be published in a reader on the current application of ACM in the region with the intend to strengthening the ACM network discourse on the development of the approach as well as reflecting on theory as an input for the regional ACM course to be delivered in June 2008 in the region during this Project.

Venue

The venue of the write shop in South Africa (in Bloemfontein or Johannesburg) will be made known to you as soon as possible.

How to indicate your interest?

In case you are interested to join the write shop and contribute with a paper, please indicate by email what ACM-related lesson, experience and expertise you would like share. Please do this in the form of a first outline of the paper. You may communicate with the project coordinator Nico.Rozemeijer@wur.nl or the “write shop” facilitator Wouter.Hijweege@wur.nl. There are resources for a maximum of 10 ACM Network members to participate. We would like to hear your response before the 15th of March 2008.