

Stakeholder participation in conservation and ecosystem management

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Stakeholder participation

WHY?

- **HUMAN RIGHT**
- **EFFECTIVENESS** ~ can make conservation/SD more effective:
 - identifies different perspectives
 - people feel more involved and motivated
 - identification of issues missed by others
- **LEARNING** ~ provides a means of instruction within a group of stakeholders (could include experts) as a valid 'output' in itself

WHY NOT....

- ❑ **REPRESENTATIVENESS** ~ only reflects views of those involved in process with potential problems of capture
- ❑ **EXPENSIVE** ~ takes time and can be expensive
- ❑ **RISKY** ~ much depends on methods/experience & skill of facilitator/s as well as 'positionality' of stakeholders
- ❑ **INEFFICIENT** ~ *reinvention of the wheel* can occur as stakeholders may not be aware of previous work. May lead to a piecemeal & fragmented approach to sustainability
- ❑ **COMPROMISE** ~ may jeopardize conservation objectives

Participation

- Why participation in the first place?
- Who should participate?
- Who is consulting whom?
- For what purpose are stakeholders being involved in planning process?
- What info arrangements are needed so that proposals are understood?
- What are the rights of those being involved?
- What are the benefits to individuals, groups & communities involved?
- What are the disadvantages and who will be affected by them?
- What is the time frame of participatory process?
- Are funds available and adequate to achieve targets?
- What cultural protocols are being observed?

Benefits of participation ... maximizing output

why involve people?

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graph TD; A[why involve people?] --> B[Knowledge]; A --> C[Perceptions];
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Knowledge

Perceptions

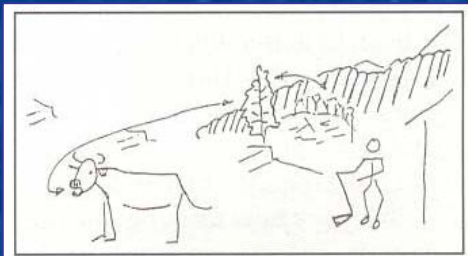
Indigenous knowledge

- knowledge that people have developed over time
- forms information base for a society
- facilitates communications and decision-taking

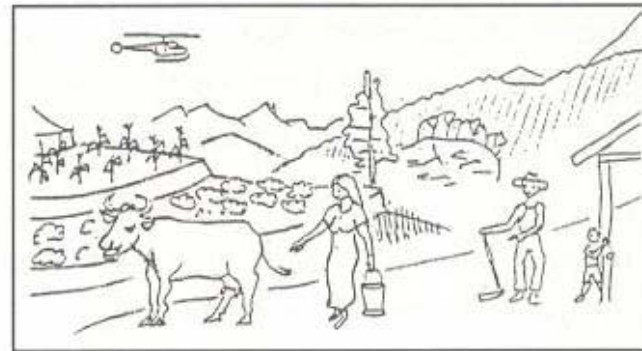
Examples:

- Use of plant/animal species
- Preparation, processing or storage of useful species
- Husbandry methods
- Ecosystem conservation procedures

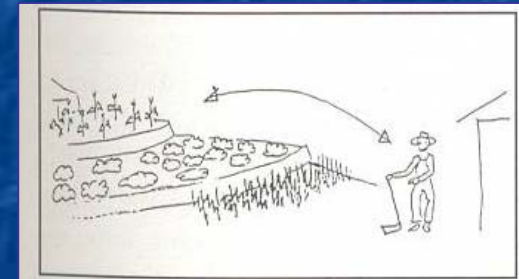
Perceptions



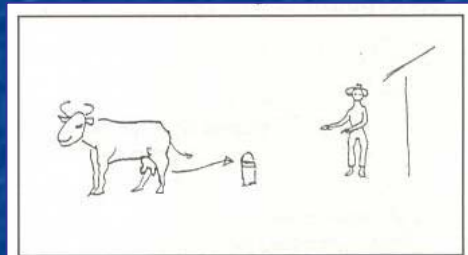
ecologist



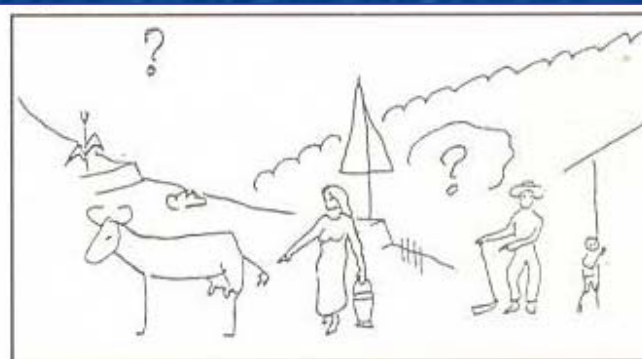
grassland system



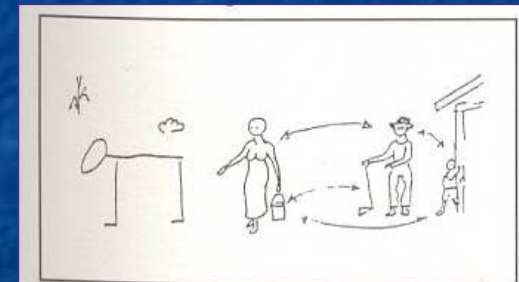
agronomist



animal scientist



interdisciplinary team



sociologist

What are the benefits to locals?

- Long-term sustenance of resources/ecosystem services
- Recognition of links with land and/or tenure rights
- External 'aid'
- Economic benefits



How far does participation extend?

International level

National level

Regional/Provincial level

District level

Sub-district level

Locality level

Community level

Group level

Household level

Individual level

Participation across all levels of stakeholders



10 principles for successful partnerships between conservation and local people

1. Provide benefits to local people
2. Meet local needs
3. Plan holistically
4. Plan protected areas as a system
5. Plan site management individually, with linkages to system
6. Define objectives for management
7. Manage adaptively
8. Foster scientific research
9. Form networks of supporting institutions
10. Build public support

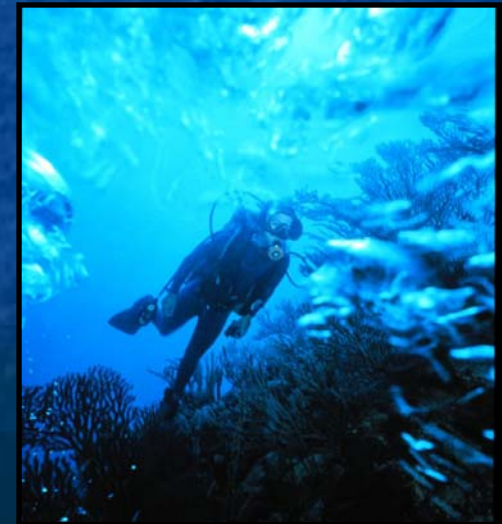
(McNeely 1996)

Local involvement in conservation

- traditional & responsible use of resources
- knowledge & availability of genetic resources
- indigenous understanding of natural processes
- eco-tourism resources
- subsistence hunting, gathering & resource use
- knowledge of medicinal properties



...sustainable livelihoods



Prevailing situation in most developing countries due to:

- ◆ lack of streamlining among national environmental agencies
- ◆ inadequate legal instruments & ineffective enforcement
- ◆ weak public info systems: inadequate flow of info to public
- ◆ lack of grassroots involvement including weak consultations with NGOs
- ◆ Environmental Education - too low a priority

Projects often fail because:

- Problems/issues are poorly defined/analyzed
- Ideas/concepts are inadequately translated into:
 - development goals
 - project objectives, design and scope

Successful projects are based on:

- a solid understanding of problems & needs
- a clearly defined proposal
- knowledge of social, economic & ecological consequences in both spatial/temporal dimensions
- an understanding of what is implementable given local capacity and resources
- consideration of **all** major stakeholders
- economic, social & environmental assessments within framework of sustainable development

Integrated Coastal Management is a pro-active mechanism

- ◆ Encourages **communication, collaboration** and **coordination** between stakeholders.

Pro-active & integrated management approach that:

- ◆ Enhances social, aesthetic & cultural fabric of area & its surroundings
- ◆ Encourages education & research



- **Public's right to know**
often neglected concept



Ecosystem approach....

is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organisation, which encompass the essential structure, processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. **It recognises that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of many ecosystems.**

The integrated concerns of conservation management

BIOLOGY

- Ecology
- Genetics
- Biogeography
- Natural history



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT



ECONOMICS



- Ecological economics
- Budgeting
- Resource economics

HUMANITIES

- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- History
- Political science
- Communications

Wildlife corridors, patches and matrices

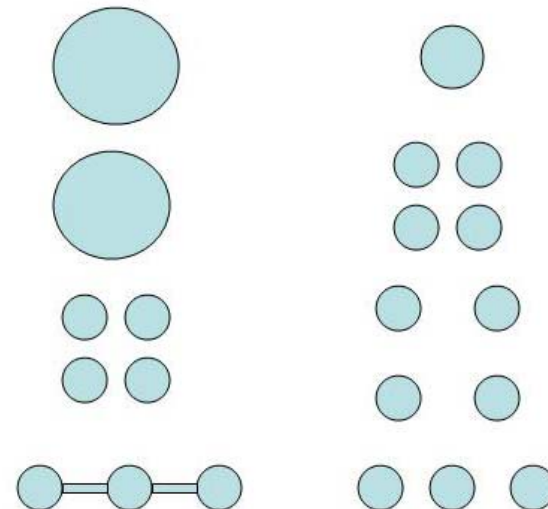
Seek to design **wildlife corridors** to ensure 'contact' to connect various habitats to ascertain genetic dispersal

Ensure that wildlife corridors are respected

- ◆ insufficient to delineate boundaries & embark on buffer zone management programme
- ◆ imperative that cooperation of local resource users is sought
- ◆ conservation area system plans should be product of consensus among all interested parties

Design of nature reserves

(Diamond, 1975)



Landscape assessment

Land-cover



natural features
& anthropogenic environment



geology
geomorphology
vegetation

Land-use



spatial utilization
& resource use



conflicts
existing impacts
potential risks

Survey ~ Analysis ~ Plan



Fieldwork:

- standard searches
- profiles/transects
- mapping
- interviews
- informants



Report:

- baseline
- classification
- list impacts
- Land-cover analysis
- correlate data
- statistics

Landscape assessment based on aspects of:

- **Spatial dimension** (topography)
- **Stratigraphy** (exposures)
- **Slope** (angle, orientation, contours)
- **Soil cover** (type, texture, moisture, salinity & depth)
- **Species** (biodiversity/habitats, status, assemblages, vegetation-types, communities)
- **Stakeholders** (informal/structured interviews with key actors)
- **Sustainability** (or lack of it ~ examine land-use practices; identify conflicts of use)
- **Stress factors** (pressures, impacts and risks)
- **Susceptibility** (vulnerability)

Environmental appraisal: surveying & recording

appraisal to include physical aspects, ecological baseline & social surveys

Primary elements required for analysis:

Ecological

main habitats & assemblages
indicator species
diversity
endangered species
endemism
vulnerability

Social

recreation & cultural value
accessibility
local involvement & interest
public health
educational role

Economic

dependency
existing investment
financial projections
post-project plans

Political

legal status
land tenure
cooperation & commitment
management effectiveness

In addition

identify anthropogenic pressures

- physical
- cultural; traditional
- habitual and ingrained
- socio-political
- economy-driven
- focus on social aspects
- **past uses** ~ in relation to subsequent development
- **current use** ~ socio-economic elements
- benefits derived & ripple effect

be aware of:
key issues pertaining to site

Social norms

relationship between development and current social norms,
based on: **religion, traditions** and **custom**

- may or may not be codified by law
- have to do with ethics, value systems, language, education, family and other interpersonal relations (incl. between sexes and age groups)
- difficult to define and measure, as a result:
social limits are difficult to determine/evaluate

Approaches to environmental strategies

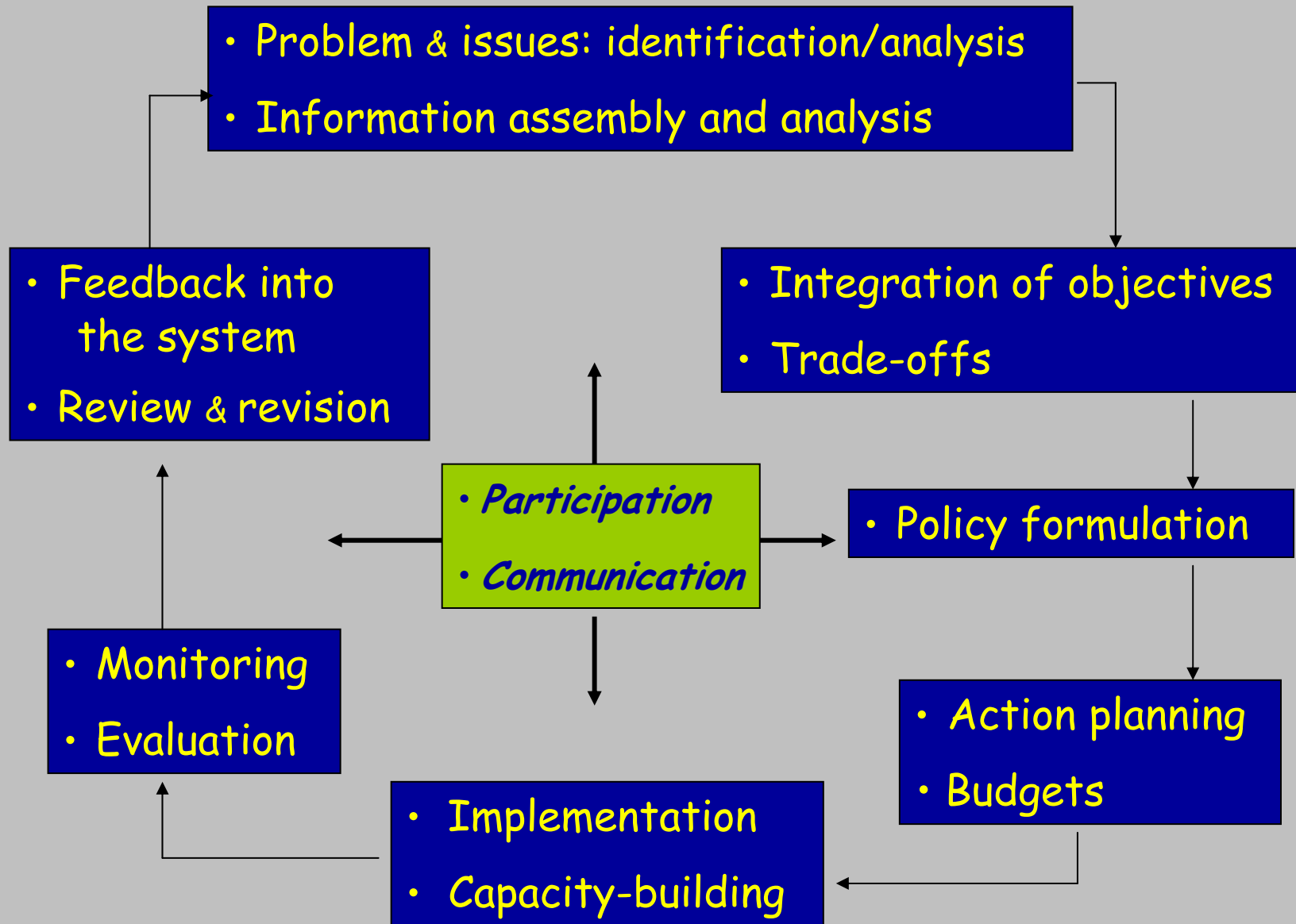
Broaden plan-making to integrate socio-developmental concerns

Successful strategies involve three elements:

- ◆ identifying priority problems
- ◆ defining priority actions
- ◆ ensuring effective implementation

To implement environmental strategies with success, a multi-faceted plan must come into play, bringing together:

- ◆ nature conservation
- ◆ management of natural resources through existing legislation
- ◆ socio-economic requirements of stakeholders



Strategic processes in planning: different components, which make up the strategy cycle

Towards a participatory management style...

Organisations can improve their own performance through adopting working principles such as:

- Empowerment
- Transparency
- Procedural equity
- Social learning

Stakeholder involvement

- Locals
- Resource users
- Official agencies
- Specialists and NGOs

Locals

- familiarity with native land
- more aware of specific characteristics & constraints
- sensitive and strongly biased

Resource users

- vested interests
- primary goal: adequate profit margin

Official agencies

- too bureaucratic/uncompromising
- assess areas in sectoral manner

Stakeholder involvement

Specialists

- expert knowledge
- experience in subject matter
- often too academic or mono-disciplinary in approach

NGOs

- keen interest
- less bureaucratic
- may raise direct funds
- unaccountable
- institutional frameworks too informal

Consciousness of
'politique' is essential

NGO involvement

NGOs have advantages that complement official management efforts:

- ◆ NGOs less bureaucratic than official agencies; therefore more flexible in their management
- ◆ NGOs may have more hands-on and scientific expertise than government departments
- ◆ NGOs have access to funding sources not usually offered to governments
- ◆ NGOs can raise funds for direct use in conservation areas as opposed to government
- ◆ NGOs are usually less politically influenced than government departments

Conflict resolution

Be aware of existing feuds/conflicts

Distinguish between peoples' **interest** and their **position**

Interest: fundamental need/concern

Position: idea put forth to further one's interests

(Lewis, 1993)

example: conflict between agricultural practice and dunal systems

Address the issue of 'power'

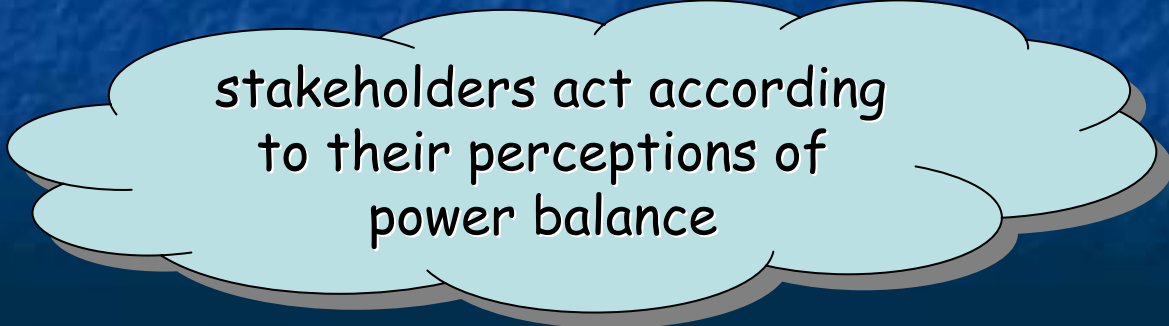
may come in many forms ~

- personal
- political
- economic

or it may be

- power of information
- legal or strong-arm backing

Important to be conscious of **real** & **perceived** power



stakeholders act according
to their perceptions of
power balance

Resistance & hostility

- inadequate information flow
- weak consultations
- inappropriate attitude
- tactless approach

Opposition towards controls due to:

- lack of info
- egoism
- political instigation; or simply
- genuine concern

Ensure that all significantly affected stakeholders are included in resolution discussions



Best to avoid conflict:

- ◆ by consulting with potentially affected stakeholders and ensure their active participation in management issues
- ◆ by being flexible & adaptable to local circumstances

Political support

Decisions of when & where to declare protected areas or how much money is allocated, fall within the domain of politicians.

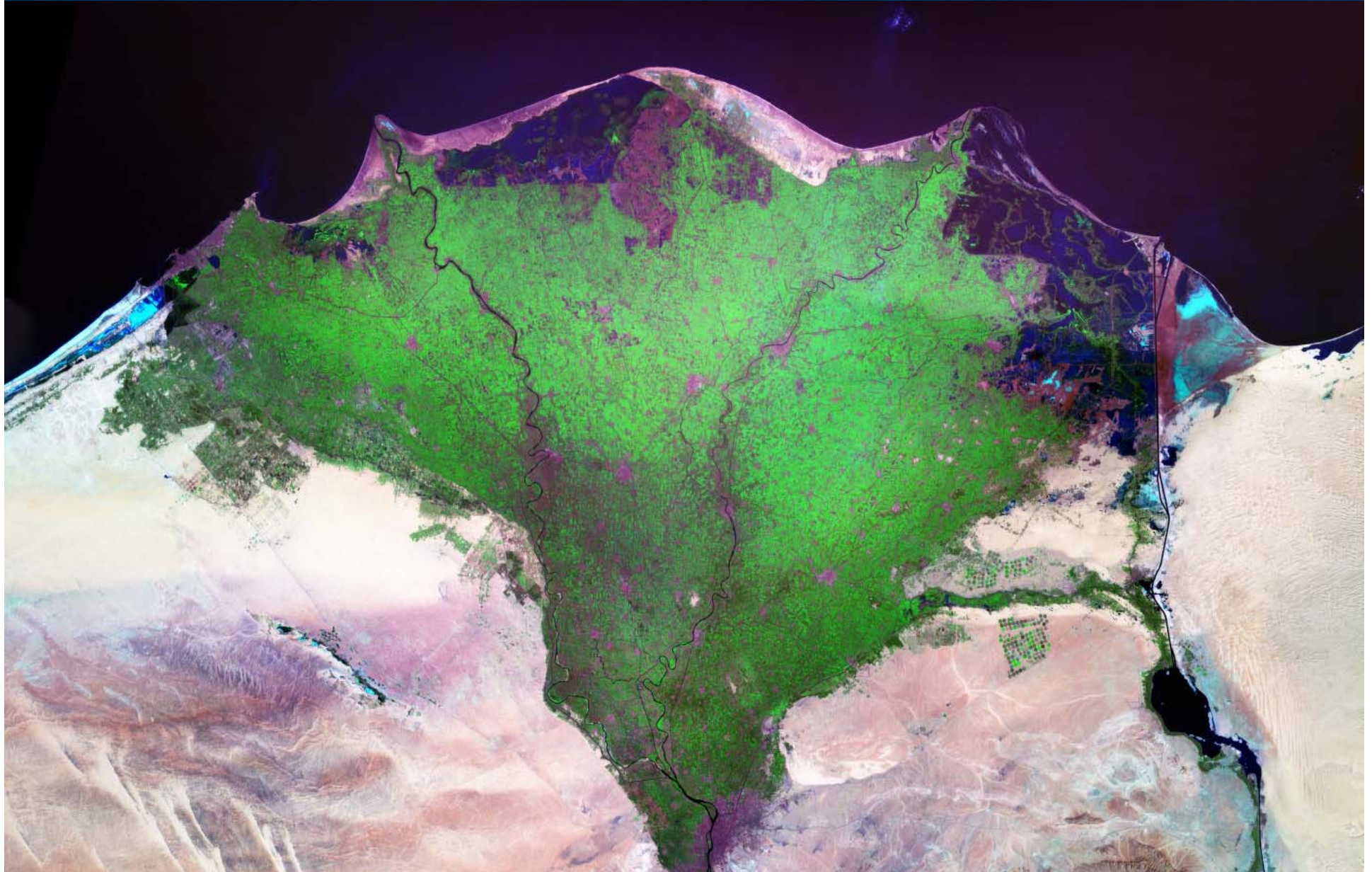
Informed public could:

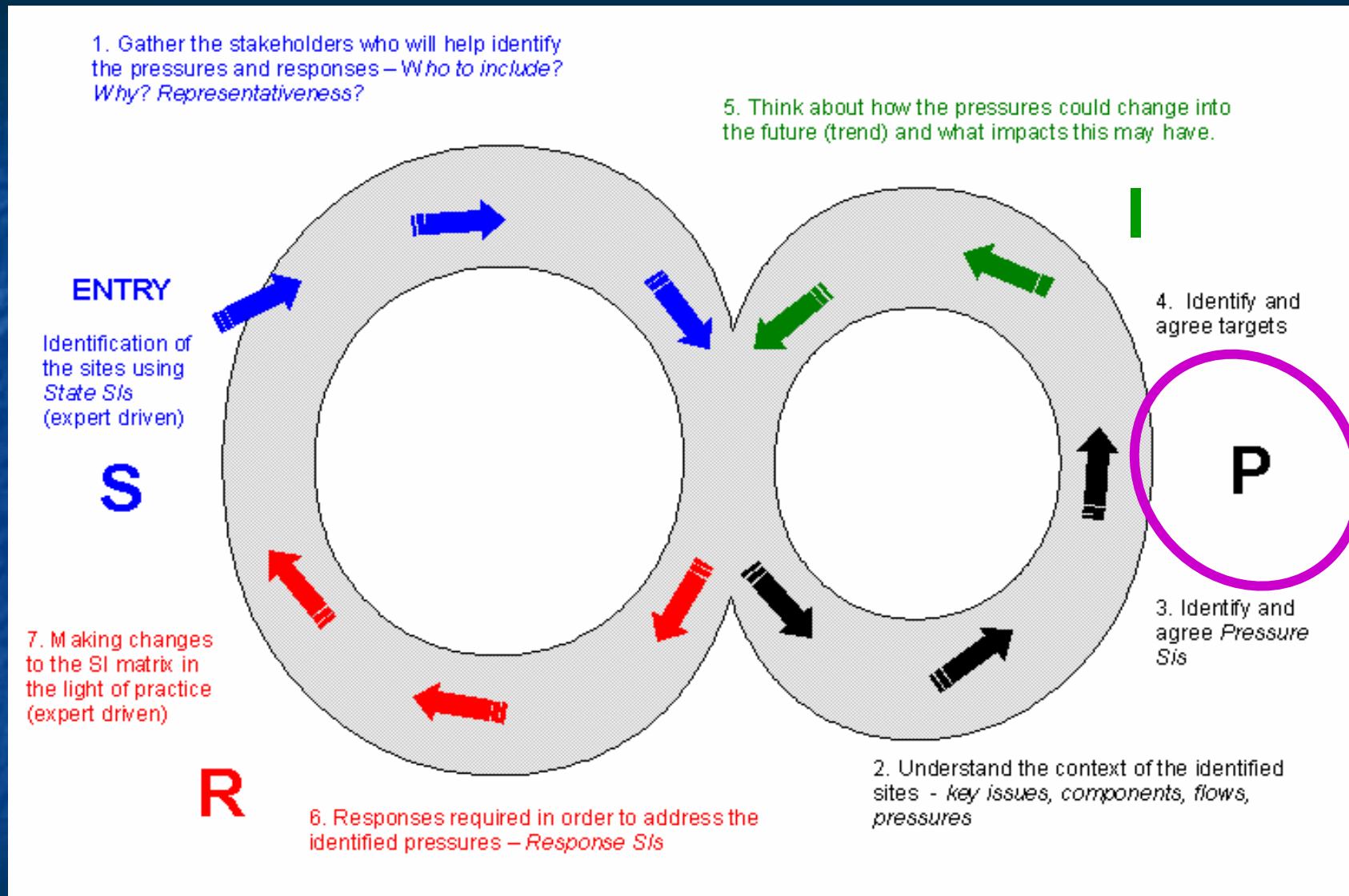
- ◆ influence decisions on conservation issues
- ◆ rally political support necessary to declare and maintain protected areas

Derive support from among 'affected locals' & 'resource users' in/around protected areas

- ◆ those benefiting from protected area will defend it against incompatible uses
- ◆ support initiatives designed to maintain resources from which their benefits derive

Lake Maryut

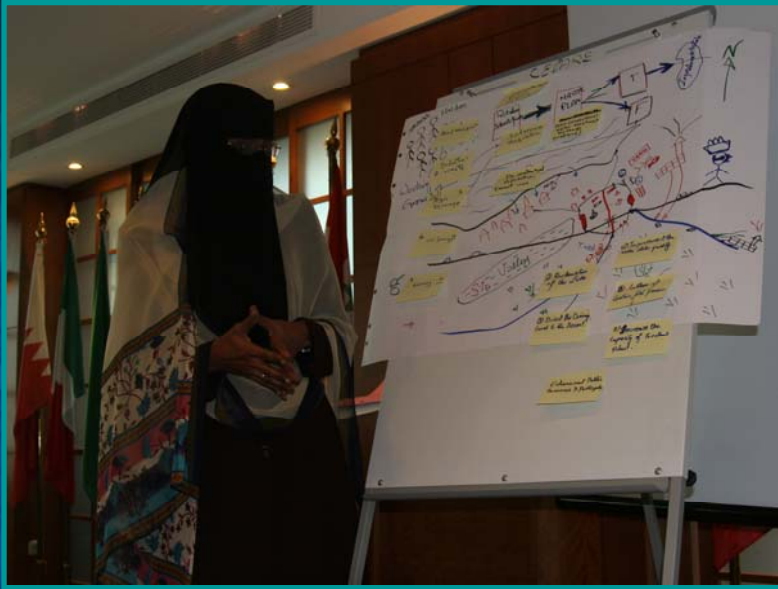




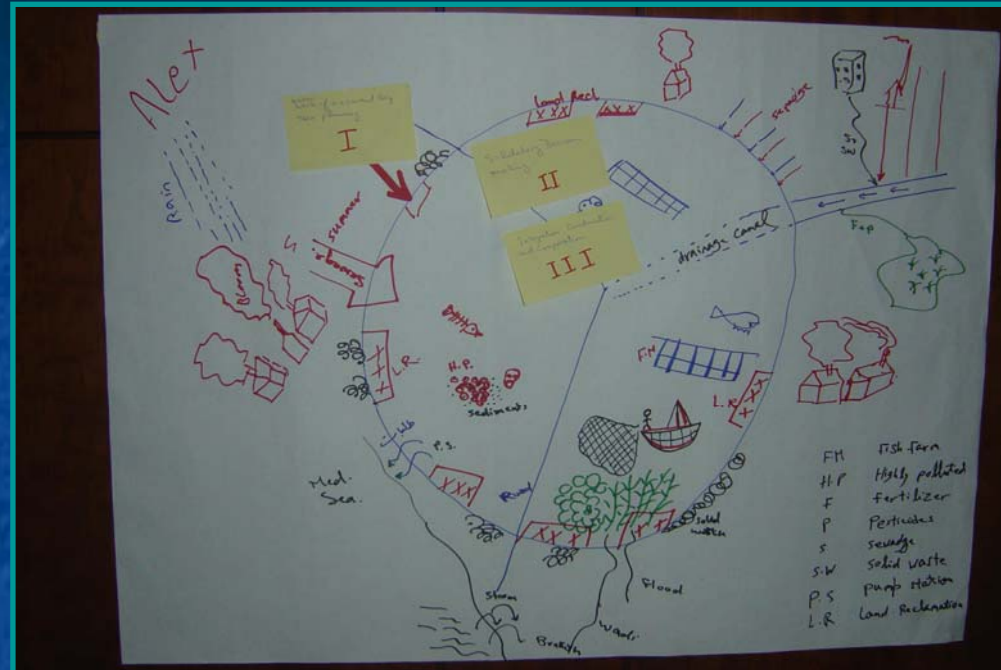
Classic PSIR model combining participation with expert knowledge

Systemic sustainability analysis ~ Lake Maryut





Lake Maryut: 'rich' pictures



Lake Maryut: issues identified

- Urban encroachment and land reclamation
- Pollution and impacts on biological quality
 - pollution from agriculture
 - pollution from industry
- Mismanagement
- Aesthetics
- Money

Lake Maryut: potential solutions identified

- Planning
- Cooperation and solidarity in decision-making
- Enhancement of public awareness and participation
- Better enforcement

- Reclaiming most polluted areas of land
- Improve water treatment methods
- 'Beautification' of tourism development
- Rehabilitation of degraded biological resources

- Decentralisation of population and use of desert
- Culture of certain fish species
- Development of new water sources



Thank you