Examining the Role of Human Dimensions Thinking in Landscape Conservation Planning

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Collaborative Landscape Conservation

Increasingly adopted
• Partnerships-based
• Co-governance

Potential Challenges
Goals → Management Plan → Implementation?
Multiple Levels of Governance

- National/
  International
- Multi-regional
- Regional
- Local
Multiple Levels of Governance

Local Stakeholders
Multiple Levels of Planning

Collaborative Landscape Conservation (CLC) Planning

Local Management Planning
Local Stakeholders

1. Operate at the ground-level
2. Vested interests
3. Power to support or impede adoption

Potential End-Users

1. Influence, develop, or implement management plans
2. May use CLC planning products
CLC Planning Products

Planning Process

Planning Product
- Common conservation goals and objectives
- Spatial analysis
- Priority conservation areas
- Management recommendations

Ex. Landscape Conservation Design (LCD)
### Potential Benefits of Stakeholder Participation

#### Good Environmental Governance
- Inclusive, fair, transparent, forward-thinking, and legitimate planning processes

#### Social Learning
- Enhance local relevancy of decisions

#### Stakeholder Awareness
- Promote awareness of environmental threats

#### Likelihood of Adoption
- Foster sense of ownership; willingness to adopt CLC planning products
Planning-Implementation Gap
Collaborative Landscape Conservation Planning

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When, where, and through what mechanisms can the values, interests, needs, and knowledge of local stakeholders be most effectively integrated into CLC planning processes?
Methods

1. Literature Review

2. Scoping Interviews
   N=40
   – Coordinators of 32 CLC initiatives

3. Three Case Studies
   N=115
   – 55 development team
   – 50 end-users
   – 10 alt. LCD coordinators

End-Users’ Organizational Affiliation
- County and Municipal Planning Commissions
- County Offices for Resource Use and Economic Development
- County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- County Public Lands Offices
- Energy Development
- Environmental NGOs
- Federal Land Managers
- Forest Resource Interests
- Land Trusts
- Regional Planning Groups
- State Agricultural Agencies and Organizations
- State Land and Resource Managers
- Trust Land Administrations
## Practitioners’ Guide

1. Local stakeholders’ preferences
2. Challenges associated with lack of stakeholder participation
3. **Best practice recommendations**
4. Social data collection guidance
CLC Planning Process

1. Conceptualize

2. Establish Goals and Objectives

3. Determine and Develop Planning Products

4. Distribute Planning Products & Promote Adoption

5. Monitor Adoption

6. Adapt Planning Product and Processes
1. Conceptualize

- Develop a broad planning purposes
- Consider social values and meanings when defining the landscape
- Consider ongoing initiatives and local capacity
- Conduct a situation assessment
- Identify local stakeholders
- Establish a development team, ideally including local stakeholder representatives
- Communicate about the initiative early
- Consult stakeholders regarding their preferences for participation
2. Establish Goals and Objectives

- Conduct a needs assessment with end-users
- Use participatory mapping and scenario planning to inform conservation goal and objective development
- Follow-up with stakeholder participants
3. Determine and Develop Planning Products

- Use needs assessments to identify planning products that address end users’ needs
- Iteratively refine form and function of planning products based on feedback from end-users
- Develop an implementation strategy
4. Distribute Planning Products & Promote Adoption

- Target stakeholder groups when communicating availability of planning products
- Acknowledge and address financial barriers to adoption
- Use demonstration sites
5. Monitor Adoption

- Monitor CLC product use
- Solicit feedback to facilitate product refinement and planning process adaptation
6. Adapt Planning Product and Processes

- Adapt planning process and/or products based on:
  - Feedback from end users
  - Analysis of changing social and ecological conditions

- Ensure capacity for adaption over time
Intended Impact of Guide

• Help reduce planning-implementation gaps

• Help ensure CLC planning processes reflect good environmental governance

• Promote the sustainability of the CLC model
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Photo Credit
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Questions & Discussion