



AfroMaison

Africa at a meso-scale: adaptive and integrated tools and strategies for natural resource management

Natural resources in Africa are under increasing pressure to sustain the continent's growing economies and populations, as well as competition for access to Africa's resources from global economies. Management of these resources has become imperative, to prevent over-utilisation and ensure that the local custodians of the resources are able to benefit in the long-term. Natural resource management (NRM) in Africa is a complex problem, needing to balance demands across different stakeholders, sectors and scales, in a context where governance is often uncoordinated and under-resourced.

Although the concepts of INRM have been in play in Africa since the late 1980s and the principles are widely accepted, implementation in operational planning and management has been limited.

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The AfroMaison project was instituted under the European Union's 7th Framework Program (7FP) to address these challenges of making INRM in Africa operational. The project worked with five geographically and culturally diverse case studies, namely: Tunisia (Oum Zessar Watershed), Mali, (Inner Niger Delta), Ethiopia (headwaters of the Blue Nile), Uganda (Rwenzori Mountains) and South Africa (uThukela District). AfroMaison set out to provide an operational framework and toolbox for INRM that can be applied in a variety of environmental and socio-economic conditions in Africa. The aim was to develop strategies for operational INRM, which are both embedded in local traditions and culture, and scientifically sound.

'Our seeming inability to translate the approaches into practical achievements on the ground is leading to widespread disillusionment. What is surprising is not the improvement of approaches over the past 40 years – rather it is their fundamental similarity.'

Campbell et al (2004)

Confirmed panel members: Dave Cox (Institute of Natural Resources, South Africa), Clovis Kabaseke (Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda), Panta Kasoma (Jane Goodall Institute Uganda), Philippe Quevauviller (European Commission), Pieter van der Zaag (UNESCO-IHE), Simon Langan (International Water Management Institute), Bakary Kone (Wetlands International, Mali), Fonda Lewis (Institute of Natural Resources, South Africa), Mongi Sghaier (Intitution des Régions Arides, Tunisia), Isatou Gaye (Chief, Green Economy and Natural Resources Section - UNECA), Dolf De Groot (WU Environmental Sciences / Ecosystem Services Partnership)

INVITATION

15th May 2014, Brussels – Belgium
Policy event: TAKING INNOVATIVE TOOLS AND APPROACHES FOR IMPROVED INRM FORWARD

Ateliers des Tanneurs
60A rue des Tanneurs, 1000 Bruxelles

Agenda :

- 10:00 Registration and coffee
- 10:30 Opening with introduction to AfroMaison and to each panel
- 11:00 Panel 1: keynotes & panel discussions
- 12:00 Open forum & lunch
- 13:30 Panel 2: keynotes & panel discussions
- 14:30 Pause
- 15:00 Panel 3: keynotes & panel discussions
- 16:00 Final remarks
- 16:30 End of the meeting

16th May 2014, Delft – The Netherlands
International symposium and workshops:
"TOOLS FOR INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA"

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TAKING INNOVATIVE TOOLS AND APPROACHES FOR IMPROVED INRM FORWARD. (15/05/2014, BRUSSELS)

Keynotes given by selected experts will provide an update on the ongoing debate with regard to Natural Resource Management in Africa, these keynotes will be followed by panel discussions where we will go more in depth, share findings and insights and plant the seeds for new initiatives and collaboration to further contribute to putting integrated water resource management in practice.

Panel 1) Implementing INRM in Africa: issues and challenges

Although the concepts of INRM have been in play in Africa since the late 1980s and the principles are widely accepted, implementation in operational planning and management has been limited. The AfroMaison project started from the premise that the building blocks for INRM in terms of technologies and approaches are available, but that critical barriers to implementation, recognized in previous studies, must be addressed in order to make INRM a reality. This session will examine the barriers to implementing INRM in Africa, the extent to which these can be overcome, and the question of whether INRM is a feasible goal, or whether we should be seeking a simpler, more operational paradigm?

Panel 2) Economic instruments and incentives for INRM

Economic tools can contribute significantly to INRM by creating incentives for people to improve the use and management of natural resources in Africa. However economic incentives are only effective if they match the local context in which they are being applied. Poor 'context-instrument' matching could result in the selection of ineffective instruments or instruments that may even act as

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT:

- Motivate a change from sectoral focus and technology & infrastructure driven approaches towards INRM by raising awareness and disseminating INRM success stories.
- Share insights on INRM and successful approaches for putting INRM in practice at meso-scale in Africa & discuss how INRM can be further promoted and implemented within Africa.
- Identify what needs to be done to address some of the challenges raised regarding implementation of INRM strategies

perverse incentives and result in a change opposing to the desired objective. Efforts to promote effective and responsible application of economic tools and incentives can benefit substantially from further debate on innovative markets and opportunities to finance economic incentives, and the contributions that these initiatives could make to green-growth and the green-economy.

Panel 3) AFROMAISON session on science-policy interface and research demands

The session aims to discuss bottlenecks in bringing research results on natural resource management to managers, decision makers and policy makers in Africa, and will examine the demand for and uptake of research in the domain of NRM in Africa, drawing on experience in AfroMaison. Key questions include: Do we have enough understanding of the processes of research uptake? Who are the champions for implementing results? Are we able to effectively integrate socio-economic aspects with environmental science? Are the tools we develop user-oriented, user-friendly, accessible? What could be done to stimulate a stronger uptake of research results by end users?

AFROMAISON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOPS ON "TOOLS FOR INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA" DATE: MAY 16, 2014 - VENUE: UNESCO-IHE INSTITUTE FOR WATER EDUCATION

The symposium aims at sharing new developments and recent applications of tools supporting sustainable management of natural resources in Africa. Models and other tools are becoming more and more used for management of natural resources, river basins, agricultural systems and their interactions. Their role in predicting effects of potential measures may assist the complex decision making process considering different users, policies, stakeholders and often contrasting objectives. However, local and regional systems are more and more affected by global factors (economic crisis, food crises, climate change, land use change, large scale infrastructures,...).

Presented studies will particularly consider: (1) interactions of different scales, such as global drivers in local impact studies (2) Improved representation of interactions between multiple sectors (food, energy, nature) or multiple disciplines (environmental, social, economic sciences), (3) Developments and use of indicators, (4) Integrated tools/decision support systems, (5) Merging of remote sensing and models, and (6) Model developments for African conditions.

Workshops will be given on **AfroMaison tools and approaches**, including tools for Spatial planning, tools for choosing and fitting incentives in NRM strategies, tools for managing and sharing spatial data, and a **special session** on participatory planning for INRM with demonstrations on using WAT-A-Game (Mpan'Game, Uganda), COOPLAN and other participatory planning tools.

INFO: [HTTP://WWW.UNESCO-IHE.ORG/AFROMAISON-INTERNATIONAL-SYMPOSIUM-0](http://www.unesco-ihe.org/afromaison-international-symposium-0)

