



Participatory Planning and Role Playing Games for Multilevel INRM In Africa

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ABSTRACT

In FP7 Afromaison project, a common operational framework has been designed and implemented in the 5 pilot countries. It shapes an innovative participatory process which ultimately should deliver some regional strategies for natural resource use and management, coherent and acknowledged at all levels from end-users (farmers, households) to meso-scale policy makers and NGOs, tuned to the overarching political and economic context. The procedure has to accommodate the complexity of the socio-environmental conditions, the diversity of knowledge sources and legitimacy (lay, political, scientific), combine technical and non technical options, organize regulation, actually engage all stakeholders, check implementation conditions and foster the emergence or adaptation of the related institutions. It's applied in case studies with various size (300 to 30000km²), population (up to 1 million) and issues. The time frame of the action (max 2 years) imposes a virtual test approach.

The framework (adapted from the FP6 Aquastress IP) has 6 phases: 0. procedural agreement 1. initial assessment and visioning 2. actions' proposals 3. actions' selection and integration in strategies (planning) 4. strategy testing using role playing games 5. implementation procedure. It's based on a sequence of participatory sessions, including lay people and all upper stakeholders, together or in parallel. The key methodological tools are: 1. a generic "action model" used by all actors (in paper form) to voice their wishes, and specify the required resources (natural, human, social, immaterial) and the expected impacts on pre-agreed common goals 2. an integration protocol and a matrix to combine the actions in multi-level plans and discuss their coherency, feasibility and efficiency 3. a local role-playing game design process using the Wat-A-Game toolkit (Ferrand, Farolfi, 2009; Abrami, Ferrand, 2012) 4. a protocol combining the planning and the game to explore, test and improve the strategies. This paper will detail these procedure, method and tools. Progress and results are detailed in another slot of the same session.