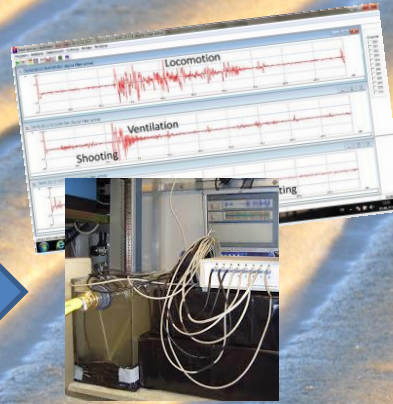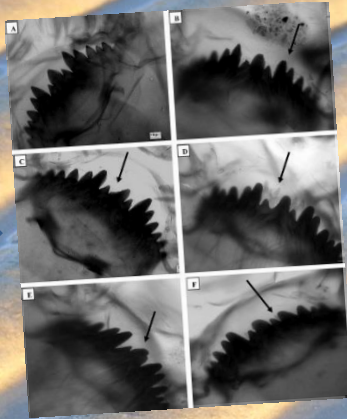# Biodiversity and development: challenges for capacity building

Luc Janssens de Bisthoven

Coordinator

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

CEBioS programme

Oceans of Opportunities, Rivers of Ideas; VUB, Friday, 7 December 2018

From research

to development cooperation to capacity building to policy

Masters 1986

IWONL

VVOB Kenya

IWONL

PhD 1995

Postdocs
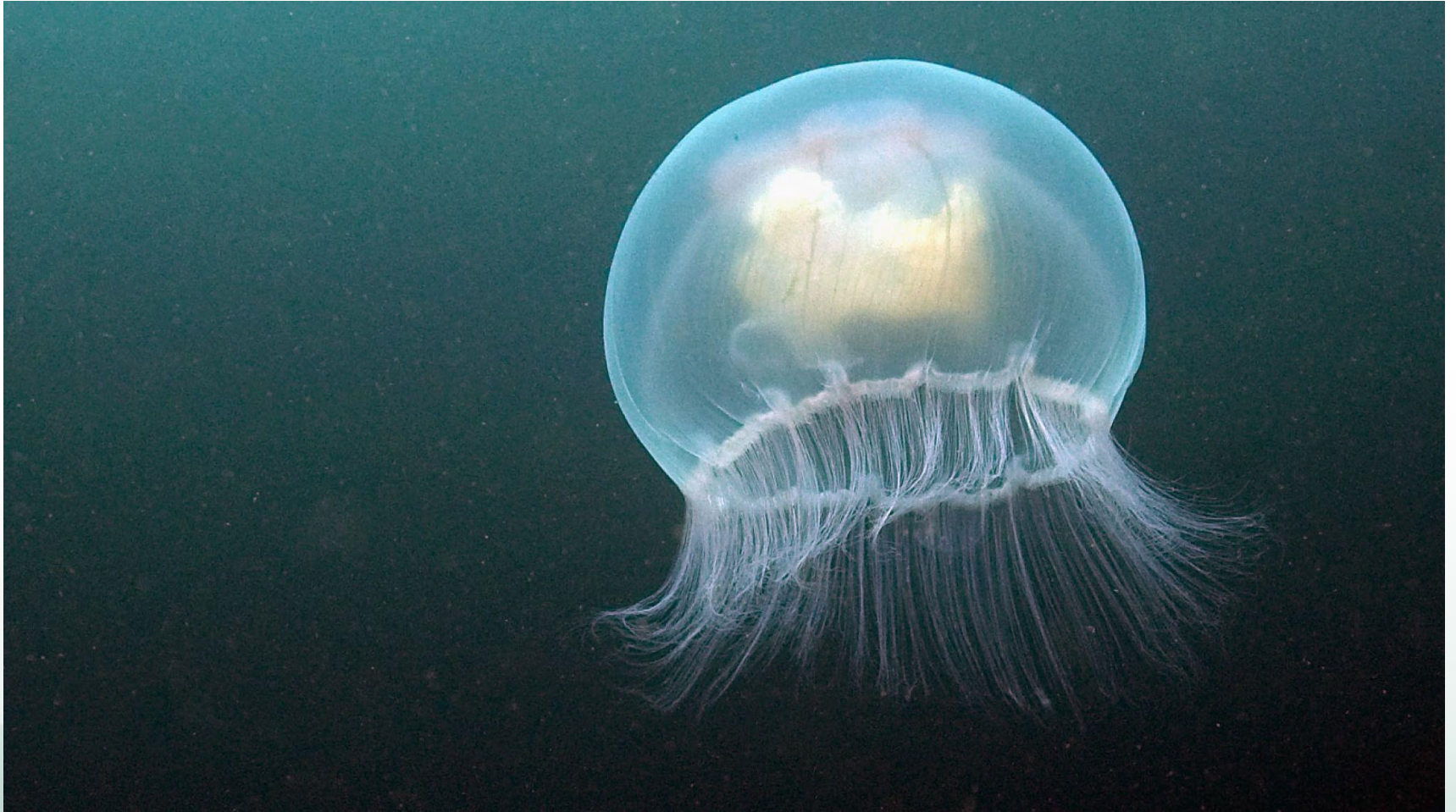Zweden
Zuid Afrika
Peking
Portugal

Consult Bureau
Germany

VLIR-UOS

RBINS-CEBioS

Introduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v40se3URYWQ

**Rio CBD Convention
Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

Sustainable Development Goal Target 17.9 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the **dedicated target to capacity- building** and aims to *"Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity- building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through* ***North- South, South-South and triangular cooperation"****. Within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, capacity-building is also mentioned by* **target 17.8 in the context of ensuring full operationalization of the "technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017".**

Target 17
By 2015 each Party has **developed, adopted as a policy instrument**, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Target 18
By 2020, the **traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are **respected**, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully **integrated** and **reflected** in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective **participation** of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Target 19
By 2020, **knowledge, the science base and technologies r**elating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are **improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.**

Target 20
By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

Semantics?

- Capacity building

- Capacity development

Draw-a-Child test, Twins Early Development Study (TEDS), King's College London
Scores left to right - top row 8, 10, 6 - bottom row 8, 10, 7

museum
Operational Directorate Natural Environment
OD Nature | OD Natuur | DO Nature
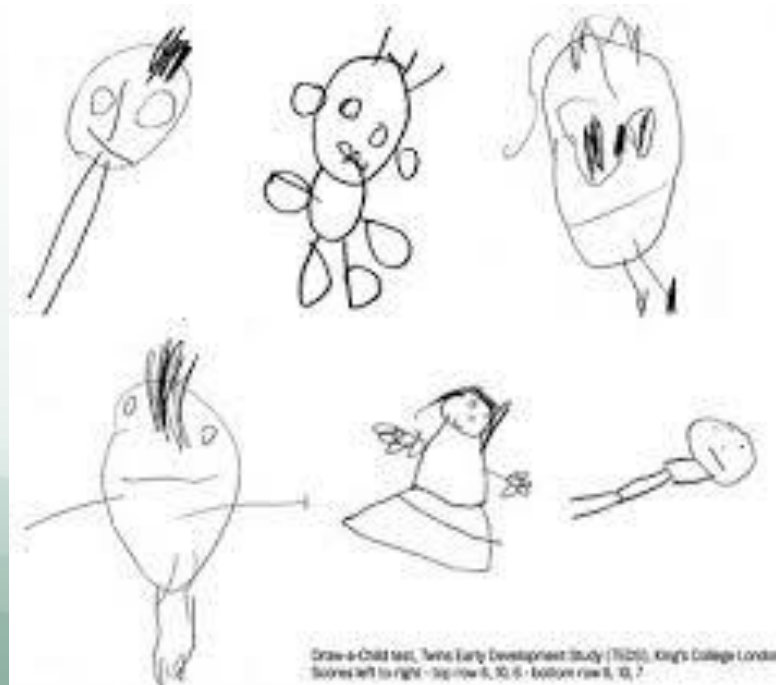
'Capacity is the ability of a human system to perform, sustain itself and self-renew'

How to do that?

The holy grail?

Capacity Development
IN PRACTICE

Edited by Jan Ubels,
Naa-Aku Acquaye-Baddoo
and Alan Fowler
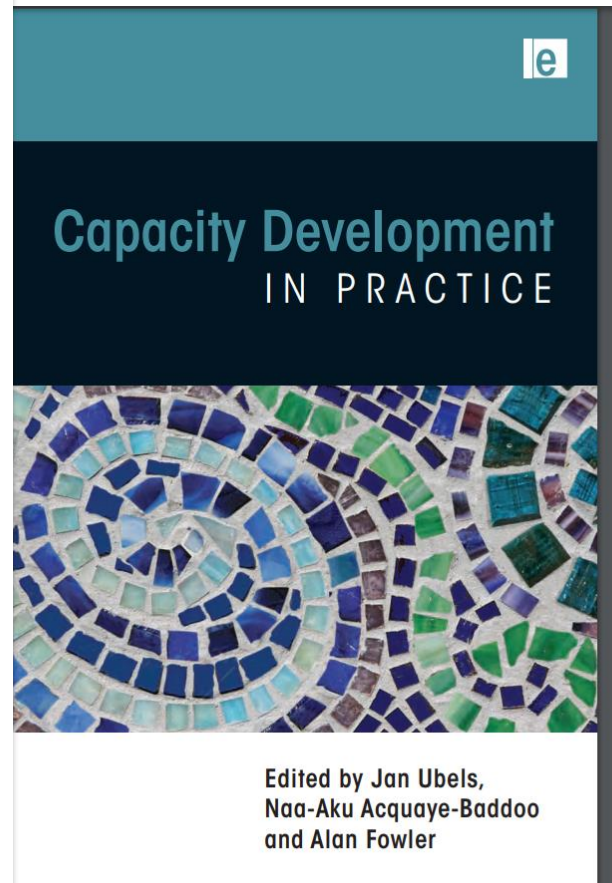
L. Janssens de Bisthoven, 2015. **Book Review about the book « Capacity Development in Practice »** Edited by Jan Ubels, Naa-Aku Acquaye-Baddoo and Alan Fowler, 2010. Posted on http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/news/book-review-by-luc-janssens-de-bisthoven

Levels of CB

Concepts

PESTEL
PCM
Learning for Action
CAS based on mentoring, learning along the way, re-thinking or re-fashioning

…

Programmes
WAVES (WB)
BIOPAMA (IUCN)
BIOBRIDGE (CBD)
GEF…

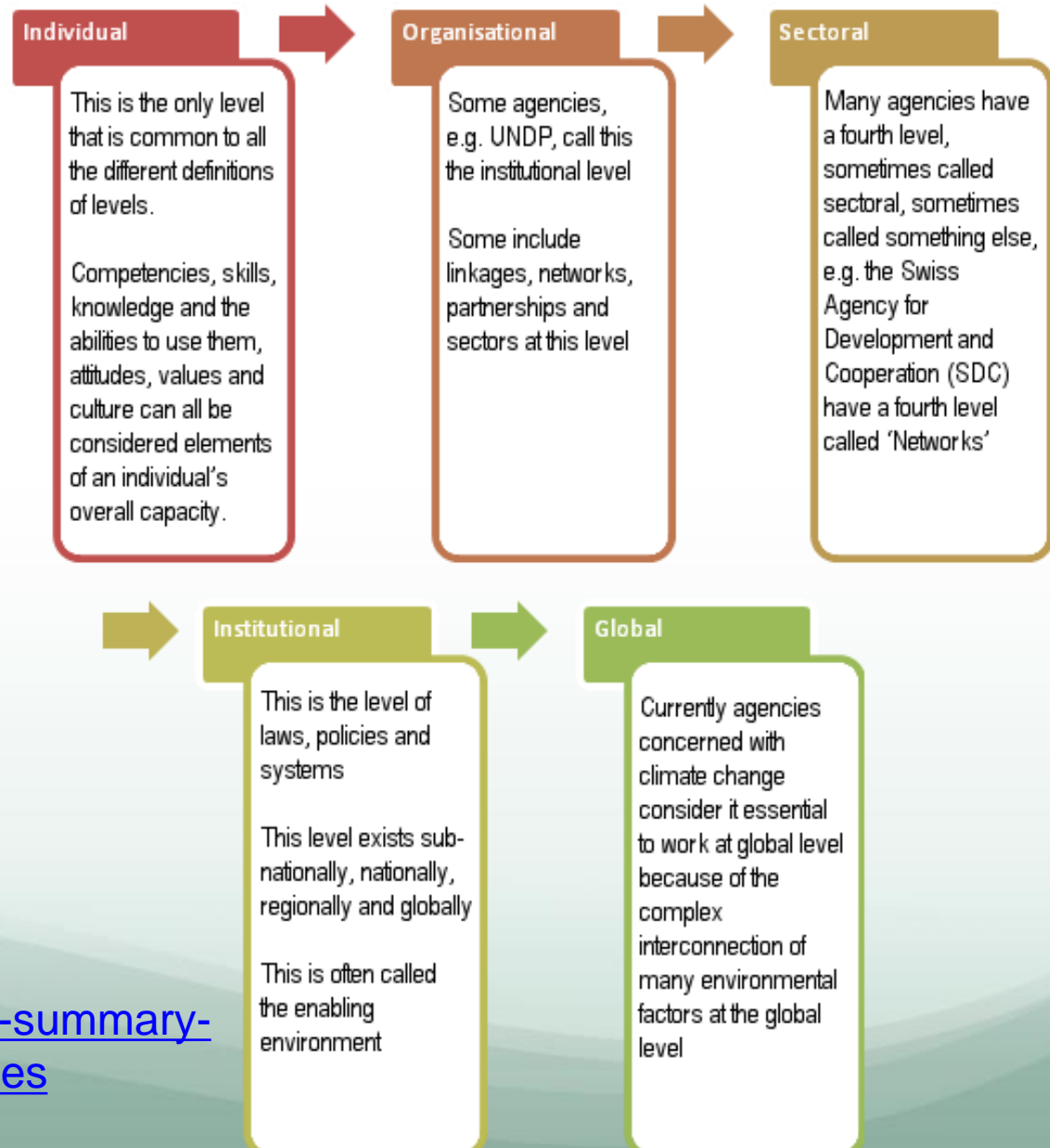http://lencd.org/learning/capacity-summary-core-concepts-levels-types-themes

Individual

This is the only level that is common to all the different definitions of levels.

Competencies, skills, knowledge and the abilities to use them, attitudes, values and culture can all be considered elements of an individual's overall capacity.

Organisational

Some agencies, e.g. UNDP, call this the institutional level

Some include linkages, networks, partnerships and sectors at this level

Sectoral

Many agencies have a fourth level, sometimes called sectoral, sometimes called something else, e.g. the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) have a fourth level called 'Networks'

Institutional

This is the level of laws, policies and systems

This level exists sub-nationally, nationally, regionally and globally

This is often called the enabling environment

Global

Currently agencies concerned with climate change consider it essential to work at global level because of the complex interconnection of many environmental factors at the global level

As a practitioner I would then say, 'when our own institutional cooperation shows some of these characteristics, then the chances are high that we are on the right track'.

- the capacity to
  - (1) act and self-organise,
  - (2) to generate development results,
  - (3) to relate,
  - (4) to adapt and self-renew and
  - (5) to achieve coherence.
- 'Dialogue processes can enhance shared and collectively owned vision, purpose and direction, as well as role clarity, and the ability to take decisions, thus releasing energy to perform.'

Dialogue and tools

- 'clarity of purpose, alignment of purpose, people and process, good questions (essential in my view), safe space (especially across hierarchies), competent, helpful and empowering facilitation (skilled persons from North and South)'

- Tools
    - 'appreciative enquiry,
    - change lab, circle, deep democracy, dialogue interviewing, dynamic facilitation, future search, open space, scenario development, story dialogue and world café'.
    - engaging in 'possibility thinking' rather than 'deficit thinking'.

Informal reflection group on capacity building/development for biodiversity and link to science-policy-development

museum
Operational Directorate Natural Environment
OD Nature | OD Natuur | DO Nature

VUB VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Prof. Koedam, N., Prof. Dahdouh-Guebas, F. , Hugé, J. & colleagues

CEBioS

Dr. Janssens de Bisthoven L., Rochette A-J & colleagues

UHASSELT

Prof. Vanhove, M. & colleagues

Ecological Indicators 73 (2017) 694–697

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Ecological Indicators

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolind

ELSEVIER

Joining science and policy in capacity development for monitoring progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the global South

Maarten P.M. Vanhove [a,b,c,d,*], Anne-Julie Rochette [a], Luc Janssens de Bisthoven [a]

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[c] Laboratory of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Genomics, Department of Biology, University of Leuven, Charles Debériotstraat 32, 3000 Leuven, Belgium
[d] Hasselt University, Centre for Environmental Sciences, Research Group Zoology: Biodiversity &Toxicology, Agoralaan Gebouw D, 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium

Environmental Science and Policy 75 (2017) 91–102

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Science and Policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envsci

ELSEVIER

Utilitarian framings of biodiversity shape environmental impact assessment in development cooperation

Jean Hugé [a,c,*], Anne-Julie Rochette [b], Luc Janssens de Bisthoven [b], Farid Dahdouh-Guebas [a,c], Nico Koedam [c], Maarten P.M. Vanhove [b,d,e,f]

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[e] Laboratory of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Genomics, Department of Biology, University of Leuven, Debériotstraat 32, 3000 Leuven, Belgium
[f] Hasselt University, Centre for Environmental Sciences, Research Group Zoology: Biodiversity & Toxicology, Agoralaan Gebouw D, 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium

Developing policy-relevant biodiversity indicators: lessons learnt from case studies in Africa

Anne-Julie Rochette[1], Jean Didier Tewogbade Akpona[2], Hugues Adeloui Akpona[3], Gaston Sèhounkpindo Akouehou[4], Blanchard Kwezi Mayundo[5], Chabi Adeyemi Marc Sylvestre Djagoun[6], Bernadette Habonimana[7], Rodrigue Idohou[8], Ingride Senan Legba[9], Benoît Nzigidahera[10]Show full author list

CrossMark

Academic capacity building: holding up a mirror

Tom Van der Stocken[1] · Jean Hugé[2] · Evelien Deboelpaep[1] ·
Maarten P. M. Vanhove[3,4,5] · Luc Janssens de Bisthoven[3] ·
Nico Koedam[1]

CEBioS

Part of BIOPOLS (CEBioS, NFP CBD, BBPf, marine, Invasive Sec., CONSBIOL)

one of the 7 groups of OD Nature (one of 3 research ODs)

within RBINS

SPHERE OF CONTROL

CEBioS · museum · Belgium partner in development · belspo

MODALITIES

Policy support	Institutional cooperation
Grants in Belgium (GTI) Workshops in South	Training in Belgium and in the South
Project calls towards scientists and authorities	Publications

POLICY - INFORMATION - RESEARCH - AWARENESS

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

North (DGD, NGOs, Enabel, Belspo)
Universities

South Partners:
Ministries
Universities
Research institutes

FINAL BENEFICIARIES

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTED AREAS → LOCAL COMMUNITIES CIVIL SOCIETY

CEBioS

6 M Euro from DGD

5 year plans

Staff of 10

>10 countries, but mainly Benin, Burundi, DR Congo, Vietnam

Lay out: Lucie Ongena

museum
Operational Directorate Natural Environment
OD Nature | OD Natuur | DO Nature

AbcTaxa — Liverworts and Hornworts of Rwanda — Eberhard Fischer — Volume 14 (2013)

AbcTaxa — Diatoms from the Congo and Zambezi Basins - Methodologies and identification of the genera — J.C. Taylor, C. Cocquyt — Volume 16 (2016)

AbcTaxa — Champignons comestibles du Haut-Katanga (R.D. Congo) — André De Kesel, Bill Kasongo, Jérôme Degreef — Volume 17 (2017)

AbcTaxa — The sawflies of Namibia and western South Africa (Symphyta, Hymenoptera) — Frank Koch, Georg Goergen and Simon van Noort — Volume 18 (2018)

Habitats de la — Domaine de chasse de Bombo-Lumene — 2011

Habitats du Parc National de Kahuzi-Biega (R.D. Congo) — Connaître et suivre leur évolution à l'aide d'un lexique des plantes — Cephas Ndabaga Masumbuko, François Muhashy Habiyaremye et Léonard Kakira Muhalema — 2013

La Réserve de Biosphère de la Pendjari (Bénin) — Guide & lexique pour le suivi des parcours naturels : Habitats, Faune et Feux — 2017

Habitats du Parc National de la Kibira (Burundi) — Lexique des plantes pour connaître et suivre l'évolution des forêts du secteur Rwegura — François Muhashy Habiyaremye, Benoît Nzigidahera — 2016

EVAMAB

Economic valuation of ecosystem services in Man and Biosphere reserves: testing effective rapid assessment methods in selected African MABs
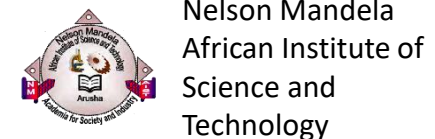
Budget: 250 000 € (funding agency: Belspo)
Duration: 30 months (2017-mid 2019)

Partners:

(promotor)

Fieldwork in collaboration with local partners:

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY
Pursuing Excellence

Abomey-Calavi University

Bahir Dar University

Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology

General objective:

- Assess the value of priority ecosystem services for a better appreciation of the potential for management and socio-economic integration.

Specific objectives:

- select, test and adapt rapid assessment tools
- formulate pertinent stakeholder engagement and policy advice for managers and decision-makers

Focus on 4 Biosphere Reserves (buffer + transition areas):

Lake Tana, Ethiopia

Mount Elgon, Uganda

Pendjari National Park, Bénin

Lake Manyara, Tanzania

Hard and soft skills

Hard	Soft
Capacities that are generally considered to be technical, functional, tangible and visible	*Capacities that are generally considered to be social, relational, intangible and invisible*

Hard:

- **Technical skills, explicit knowledge and methodologies** (which for individuals can be considered as competencies)
- **Organisational** capacity to function: appropriate structures; systems and procedures for management, planning, finance, human resources, monitoring and evaluation, and project cycle management; the ability to mobilise resources
- **Laws, policies, systems and strategies** (enabling conditions)

Note: tangible resources like infrastructure, money, buildings, equipment and documentation can be considered as the material expression or product of capacity, but they are not capacity in and of themselves.

Soft:

Operational capacities such as:
- Organisational **culture and values**
- **Leadership**, political relationships and functioning
- **Implicit** knowledge and experience
- **Relational** skills: negotiation, teamwork, conflict resolution, facilitation, etc.
- **Problem** solving skills
- **Intercultural** communication

Adaptive capacities such as:
- Ability and willingness to **self-reflect** and learn from experience
- Ability to **analyse** and **adapt**
- Change readiness and change management
- **Confidence**, **empowerment** and or participation for legitimacy to act

education
didactics
pedagogy
blended learning
distance learn.
e-learning
training
workshop
lecture
seminar
world café
mind mapping
supervision
coaching
mentoring
N-S-S
PCM
needs assessment
ToC

Awareness raising
(scheme?)

vs F 2w.
individual
group
institution
organisation?

grant
scholarship
summer school
university

citing labs

Ennemies/ barriers of CB

- Ethnocentrism by the provider
- Limited resources for CB, follow-up, long term process
- Unclear definition of roles, mandates and objectives of CB, lack of transparency
- Poor structure and process
- Resistance to change by the beneficiaries
- One-size-fits-all approach
- Lack of M&E or too rigid and controlling based on actions and outputs rather than outcome and impact, lack of self-reflection
- Unsynchronised project cycles between donor and beneficiary
- Political economy issues
  - Hidden agendas
  - Lack of transparency
  - Greed and corruption
- Planning fetishism
- Bad hand writing ;)

Thank you!