



Linking Research to Action: Gender and Adaptive Collaborative Management

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Overview

- ACM?
- Gender and ACM
- Experiences in applying ACM
- Food for thought



ACM: Adaptive Collaborative Management

A response to complex systems, uncertainties and surprises.

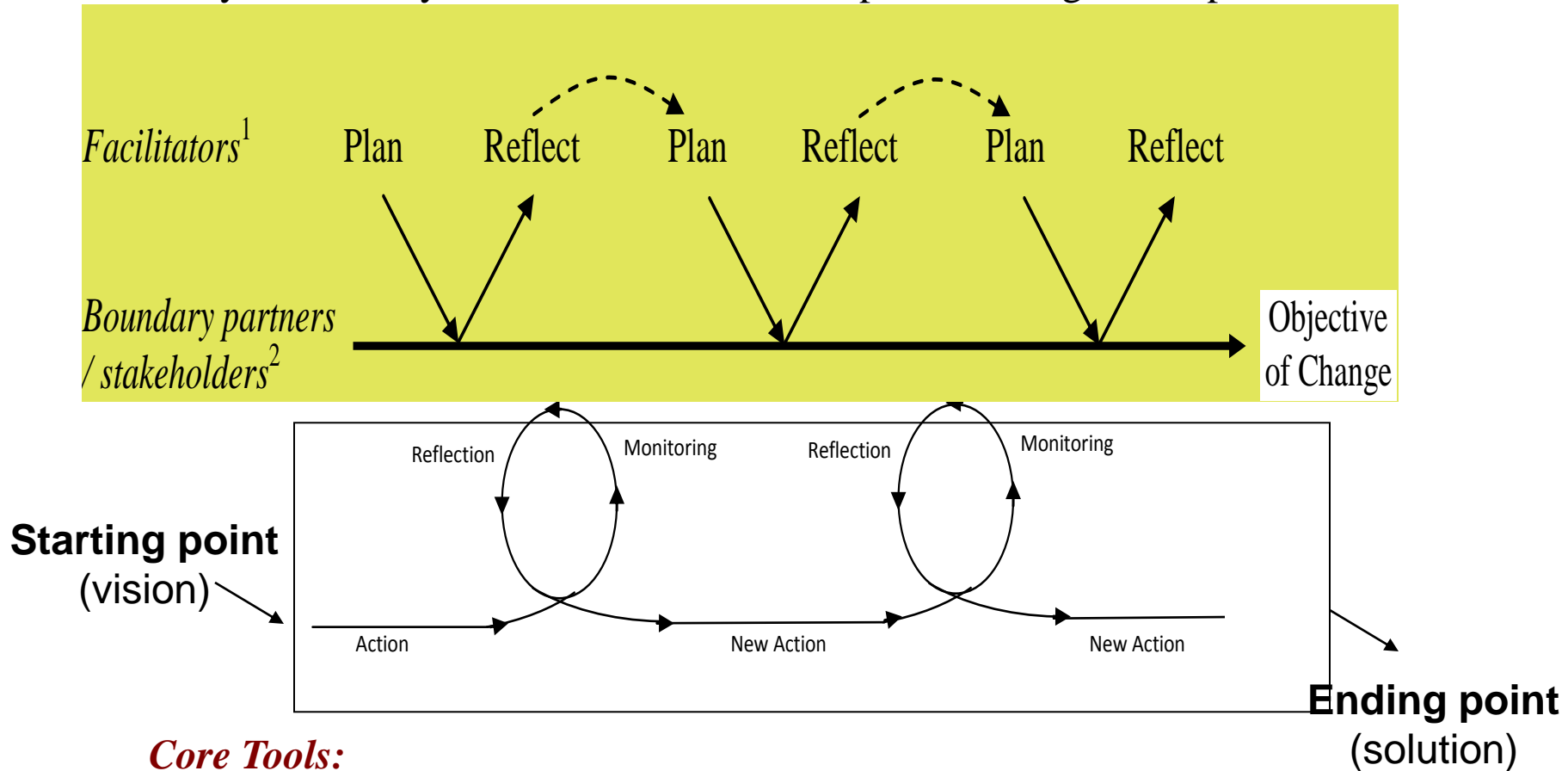
Adaptive Management: adjust management strategies to anticipate or adapt to changes (Wollenberg *et al* 2000). An experimental approach in which participants learn from implemented activities (Borrini-Feyerabend *et al* 2000).

Collaborative management: involves interaction, dialogue and shared decision making by multiple stakeholders at different scales and locations.

“a value-adding approach whereby people who have interests in a forest agree to act together to plan, observe and learn from the implementation of their plans while recognizing that plans often fail to achieve their stated objectives.” (Colfer et al. , 2011:39)

Approach: Participatory Action Research

Definition: Research *on or embedded in* social change processes, for which data is systematically collected for more widespread sharing and impact.



Core Tools:

- observation
- Process documentation

Gender and ACM

ACM/CIFOR chose deliberately to:

- ✓ Empower local communities in order to reduce vertical inequalities;
- ✓ Target the most vulnerable social groups to lessen horizontal inequalities

Gender differentiation → the main tangible social differentiation; the main organizing principle of social relations (Kronsell 2005): men and women have different interests, rights, role, responsibilities... and power in forest management.

Gender and ACM

- **Power asymmetries** associated with gender relations, most often at the expense of women could be addressed with ACM.
- It is expected that ACM **empowers women** to claim more equity and access to decisions on forest management.
- **ACM as a negotiation platform** will help reconciling interests, rights, roles ... of **men and women**, leading to a more **balanced distribution** of roles, responsibilities, opportunities and more visibility and recognition of the contribution of men and the women in forest management.
- requires process of **long-term engagement**, trust... for change



From theory to action: Using ACM for women's empowerment

1) The Campo-Ma'an Model Forest, Cameroon

ain de Forêts Modèles



- ❖ 7,710 km²; 60,000 inhabitants
- ❖ 2000: TOU, landscape management for conservation
- ❖ Until 2000: Exclusionist management systems, open conflicts.
- ❖ 2001: ACM by CIFOR&IMFN.
- ❖ Starting with vertical collaboration, then plan for empowering local communities
- ❖ Women more interested in ACM
- ❖ Institutional change: AMFN
- ❖ Creation of the Campo-Ma'an Model Forest in 2005

ACM in the Campo-Ma'an region

Examples of PAR research questions

- ❖ *How to mainstream women energies into biodiversity conservation and local development?*
- ❖ *What can women do by themselves and what expected from partners ?*



The Campo-Ma'an women platform (PLAFFERCAM)

Creation of platforms for dialogue Example: Rural women platform (PLAFFERCAM)



- Created in 2006 ; AMFNS
 - Currently 169 women associations
- ### Current activities of the platform
- **Development of local production activities**
 - Fish, crayfish, and snails rearing
 - Valorisation of NTFP
 - Organisation of agricultural sectors
 - Production of mushroom
 - Rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems by the planting of 500 coconuts plants
 - **Participation and networking**
 - Presence in major policy fora at national and international levels.
 - Searching for development partners

Gender tenure and community forest in Uganda and Nicaragua

- **ACM CIFOR Uganda and Nicaragua**
- **Stakeholders:** 6-9 communities, National Forestry Authority, private investors, NGOs.
- **Problems:** low participation of women in community forest due to lack of tree tenure rights (Uganda) and absence in the decision making spheres (both).
- **ACM results:**
- **Uganda:** Women have been granted pieces of lands and encouraged to plant trees of their choice;
- Women succeeded to make positions on executive committees, and many other decision making positions.
- **Nicaragua:** People are empowered to talk openly about women and forest decision

Challenges and opportunities of using ACM to address gender inequities



Opportunities

- ACM is **opportunity for less powerful people** as it has the potential of empowering the voiceless, the poor and the marginalized (women and minorities being part of them).
- **Mutual Learning** for communities' empowerment
- Particularly suited to gender because the **gender issues require long term engagement**

Challenges and opportunities of using ACM



Challenges

- **Short duration projects** for activities whose results are seen in the long run.
- **ACM is time (and personnel) consuming approaches:** facilitator need to help with reflection and adjustments.
- **Funder requirements** not flexible, or **incompatible with ACM** learning philosophy
- **Powerful groups** participate only when in their **own interest** (Men may resist change or loss of power).

Food for thought!



Assumptions: ACM → power balance, equity, more understanding among women or between men and women.

In what conditions this works or does not work?

Is it sustainable beyond the end of the facilitation and engagement?



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