

Incorporating ecological knowledge A training presentation

Local Ecological Knowledge

- Accumulated knowledge of the local environment
 - Within local communities
 - LEK, IK, TK, Ecological literacy
 - Direct experience
 - Orally transferred
 - Holistic perspective
 - Spatial and temporal trajectory
 - Species migration, Distribution patterns, Seasonal changes, Changes over time, Uses – subsistence/income/cultural, Management practices & regimes
 - Internationally recognised
 - Role in resource management recognised by UNCED & MEA

Common Misnomers

- Unreliable
- Not scientific
- Whose knowledge better?

Local Knowledge in Research

- Insight into local ecosystem dynamics including changes over time
- Local knowledge as a means towards participation
- Largest stake in resource conservation
- Ownership
- Sense of pride
- Long-term interest e.g. monitoring
- Saves time and resources
- Facilitates 'action plan' implementation

Who knows what?

- Key informants
 - Healers, village headman or woman, fishing group
- Men
- Women
- Children
- Rich and poor

Local Knowledge in HighARCS

- WP's
 - Ecosystem services and biodiversity values
 - Highland aquatic resources and livelihoods
 - Feed into Integrated Action Plans (IAPs)
- Species assessments – e.g. species composition, changes over time, habitats including nursing grounds, breeding grounds and migratory routes
- Biophysical information – e.g. mapping erosion caused by rising water levels
- Successes/failures of past management plans/practices
- Focus groups discussions, Individual interviews, Market surveys, Mapping, Stakeholder verification meetings

Why research what local people already know?