

A new way to co-create resources management plans

1. Advisability Check

Preliminary information gathering and stakeholder contact
Initial issues clarification

2. Situation assessment

Co-creating a model of the physical and social-political system together with the stakeholders
Integrating expert and local users' knowledge

3. Scenario Testing

Exploring evolution scenarios with the help of role playing games



Deciding together how to manage land and marine resources

Action planning with the stakeholders
Agreeing on responsibilities

5. Short term action planning

Co-defining and prioritizing objectives
Co-designing management tools and indicators for evaluation

4. Mid-term management plan

ComMod

* Developed for more than 15 years, the **ComMod** approach has been implemented in more than 20 countries in the North and South in various fields related to the management of natural resources and land.

More information on www.commod.org ; Etienne, M., Ed 2010. *Companion Modeling : an approach to support sustainable development*. Quae. Paris. (in French)

Lisode is a cooperative company specializing in stakeholder engagement processes, group facilitation agent based modeling and the ComMod approach. Lisode accompanies innovative designs for the management of land and marine areas.

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A ComMod experience from a Fishery and Marine Protected Area in Mauritania



Negotiation between fishermen and wholesalers during the multi-stakeholders role-playing game

What the stakeholders say

“ This process seems very important to me because it brought together a lot of stakeholders who do not share the same interests. The simulation with the role playing game helps to see things from the place of the others, to understand their interests and to share our points of view. What we saw in the simulation is that it is not because you fish more than you earn more. ”

Harouna,
Small-scale fishermen representative
from Nouadhibou

“ Role-playing has allowed us to detach from reality and escape certain obligations. The interaction with others helps us to seek solutions. It is important for decision making so that decisions become applicable and applied. We are looking for shared visions in order not to say: "I decided, you do it" but "We decide and do it together." We need to motivate people to take action on their own. It reduces the cost of monitoring and it enhances the whole system. ”

Mahfoudh, IMROP Director and responsible for drawing up the fisheries management plan

The advantages of ComMod

A management plan that is « owned » by the stakeholders

The approach allows to involve all stakeholders (from the fisherman to the Ministry of Fisheries) and project them into the future by testing and simulating different management scenarios. The management plan therefore better reflects the stakeholders' objectives and environmental constraints and thus becomes legitimate.

Coping with uncertainty

The approach allows to co-identify uncertainties related to physical and social system functioning and in this way creates different plausible scenarios. Once the scenarios have been literally “played through” (thanks to the role playing game) the management plan thus produced is more robust.



Integrating the knowledge of all

The participatory modeling approach allows to link different data sources (local knowledge, practitioner expertise, scientific knowledge). It also allows to represent the spatial and temporal dynamics of resources and stakeholders at different scales.

Opening the doors to a more cooperative mode of governance

The various exchanges (co-creation of situation analysis, simulation with role playing game etc.) create a positive working space where relationships typically are strengthened, motivation for change is created and even conflict maybe constructively addressed.