

Collaborative Coastal Management in Brazil: Accomplishments, Challenges and Opportunities

Cristiana Simão Seixas (State University of Campinas Brazil),
I. Davidson-Hunt (U. Manitoba), D. Kalikoski (FUR,G, BR),
F. Berkes (U. Manitoba), F. Castro (CEDLA, Holland), R.
Medeiros (UFPR, BR), C. Minte-Vera (UEM, BR), L. G. Araújo
(UNICAMP, BR), B. Davy (U. Ottawa)

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This presentation

- Outputs of a workshop
 - to explore lessons learnt and identify knowledge gaps and research opportunities to advance Collaborative Coastal Management (CCM) in Brazil
- Paraty, Brazil (Dec. 2011)



Photo: M. Trimble

56 participants – mostly academic researchers, few government staff and few community representatives.

Key guiding questions

- What are the **key events/experiences/issues** that have shaped collaborative coastal management (CCM) in your region of work?
- What do you consider to be the most significant **accomplishments** in CCM in your region in the last five years?
- What do you consider to be the most significant **challenges** for CCM in your region at the present time?
- What are key **knowledge gaps** in your CCM experience?

4 working groups

Mix of:

- Brazilians & int'l researchers
- Government
- Community reps



Photo: M. Trimble



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CCM Sites

Most experiences:
S & SE coast

Few experiences
from NE coast

Some inland
experiences



Key issues shaping CCM

- **Threats from coastal development** (e.g., ports, oil and gas, shrimp farms) and environmental compensation measures leading to establishment of new protected areas.
- **Crises in the fisheries systems** (decline in fish production and fisher income, user-group conflicts) leading to community mobilization.
- **Participatory academic research** and environmental assessment triggering and supporting new partnerships and arrangements to promote CCM
- **Policies and legislations** creating new opportunities for CCM
- **Protected areas** (establishment of new PA, banning fisheries within PA, replacement of people living inside PA)

Threats from coastal development

- Shrimp farm, Ibiraguera Lagoon, 2002.



Photo: R.R.Freitas

Crises in the fisheries system

- User group conflicts & catch decline in Patos Lagoon



Small scale fishers vs.
Larger scale fishers



Photos: D. Kalikoski

Participatory research

- University-led projects providing data to discuss CCM options in Paraty, Rio de Janeiro Coast



Photos by: L.G. Araújo

Policies and legislations creating new opportunities

- The Arraial do Cabo Marine Extractive Reserve



Photo: P.Pinto da Silva



Photo : C.S.Seixas

Protected areas

- Top-down establishment of a Marine Environmental Protected Area in Sao Paulo Coast (2008)



Photo: L.G. Araújo

Photo : N. Bahia

Key accomplishments in CCM

- Legislations and public policies fostering user participation in CCM (e.g., CONAPE, ZEE, SNUC)
- New or improved arenas for CCM (e.g., Protected Areas management councils and Fishing Forum)
- Empowerment of community-based organizations
- Trust building and partnerships among stakeholders
- Recognition of TEK/LEK & its use in management plans

Key accomplishments in CCM (cont')

- Universities roles in (a) **building capacity**, (b) research on CCM, and (c) support/partnership with CBOs and Gov't
- **Funding agencies support** for research, capacity building and technical assistance in CCM
- Gov't agencies: **increased capacity (staff)** for CCM
- **Networks for knowledge exchange**: users network, research network, technical assistance network
- Gov't actions to **support development** of fisheries and fishing communities

Key challenges in CCM

- Low **mobilization/participation** of fishers; low-level **representativeness**; low leadership **legitimacy**
- Low **capacity** of users and gov't managers for CCM
- **Conflicting or overlapping** gov't agencies' **agendas**
- Lack of effective user **participation** in decision making
- Weak **communication** and lack of **trust** among stakeholders
- Low **research results dissemination** and use in management and policies

Key challenges in CCM (cont')

- **Discontinuity** of management processes and policies
- Few, or lack of, **cross-scale** dialogues and interactions
- **De facto implementation** of CCM processes
- Lack of **flexibility** and adequacy of gov't institutions
- **Strict focus** on fisheries development only – instead of considering it within the context of sustainable territorial development
- **Fund raising** and better resource **administration** for CCM processes

Challenges vs. Accomplishments

- Experiences range from initial stage of CCM to more advanced processes; hence:
- A challenge at one site may have been overcome at another site
- Key question: what are the key challenges then?
- Analysis of emerging elements:
 - Communication, trust building, and partnerships
 - Effective user participation in CCM
 - Capacity building for CCM
 - Government role in CCM

Communication, trust, partnership

CHALLENGES

- Weak **communication** and lack of **trust** among stakeholders
- Few, or lack of, **cross-scale** dialogues and interactions
- Low **research results dissemination** and use in management and policies

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Networks for knowledge exchange**: users network, research network, technical assistance network
- **Trust building** and **partnership** among stakeholders
- Recognition of **TEK/LEK** & its use in management plans

Effective participation

CHALLENGES

- Low **mobilization/participation** of fishers; low-level **representativeness**; low leadership **legitimacy**
- Lack of effective user **participation** in decision making

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Legislations and public policies fostering user **participation** in CCM
- **Empowerment** of community-based organizations

Capacity building

CHALLENGES

- Low **capacity** of users and gov't managers for CCM
- **Fund raising** and better resource **administration** for CCM processes

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Government roles

CHALLENGES

- **Strict focus on fisheries** development only – instead of considering it within the context of sustainable territorial development
- **De facto implementation** of CCM processes
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **New or improved arenas** for CCM (e.g., protected areas management councils and Fishing Forum)
- Gov't actions to **support development** of fisheries and fishing communities

Government roles

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Key challenges to CCM in Brazil

Knowledge gaps & Research opportunities

Key gap: **How to improve communication and dialogue among stakeholders** (gov't vs. users; gov't vs. researchers; researchers vs. users; among each group)?

- Existing information/knowledge not used due to:
 - Asymmetric information access
 - Different technical languages/jargons → miscommunication
- Existing knowledge not used /participants' demands:
 - Concepts and tools helping CCM
 - Legislation and dynamics of gov't systems
 - Practices helping CCM
 - Research results
 - Biological and Ecological data

Knowledge gaps & Research opportunities (cont')

- Assessment of lessons learnt from existing experiences
- Assessment of transaction costs for CCM
- Assessment of communication tools/strategies for CCM
- New challenges in CCM: e.g., the role of global environmental changes in local CCM
- Social-technical innovations in CCM

Knowledge gaps & Research opportunities (cont')

Others:

- Key social-political conditions for CCM
- Resource users practices and organization
- Gender issues in knowledge
- Change in coastal livelihoods
- The role of education in environmental management
- Multiple-uses of coastal zone
- Factors fostering sustainability

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Network opportunities

- Network of Graduate programs on Ocean Sciences/CAPES
- Fisheries technical assistance Network (Rede ATER)
- Fishing solidarity network
- Manguemar Network (fishers, NGOs, researchers)
- MOPEAR Network (fishers' network)
- National fisheries conference
- International opportunity funding SHHRC (exchange Canada/Brazil)
- WEB-based approaches/technologies → networking graduate students; communities