Call for case studies

Ecosystem Governance and Urban & Rural Linkages

Liette Vasseur

Ecosystem governance is defined as "… the means by which society determines and acts on goals and priorities related to the management of natural resources, ... [including] … the rules, both formal and informal, that govern human behavior in decision-making processes as well as the decisions themselves." Ecosystem governance is an approach that merges different disciplines to explore ways that human can protect the environment and maintain activities in a sustainable manner. It is an nclusive approach that better connects the social system with the ecological system to improve conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem health for human well-being. It examines the actions that can be undertaken to move forward and contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

During the first WFEG in Beijing, several participants were discussing the challenges of urban – rural ecosystems and the disconnect that exist. The linkages between both have declined over the past decades as more people live in urban centres and few maintain connections (through vacations or families) with the rural ecosystem. However at the same time, rural ecosystems and their communities are essential for the survival of urban centres as our food is coming from there. There is a need to better understand the connections and how this can be optimized in the future. To do so, the thematic group aims to produce for the next World Forum on Ecosystem Governance a document that analyses case studies from various ecosystems and regions of the world on this aspect of rural-urban linkage and how ecosystem governance can support it.

The proposed activity is a compilation of case studies to initiate discussion regarding commonalities, lessons learned, and good practices that can be replicable in other circumstances regarding issues related to ecosystem governance in the context of rural-urban linkages. The compilation will include an analytical approach for each case study. It will have three parts: 1) background and information on ecosystem governance, 2) case studies, and 3) analysis of the case studies and discussion of commonalities and best practices.

Timeline:
January 15, 2018: Call for abstracts (maximum 15 case studies)
February 1st: Decision on acceptance of abstracts
May 1st, 2018: Manuscript submissions
May-June: Peer review
August 4, 2018: Revisions and resubmissions

Abstract
Submit abstract by January 15, 2018 to Liette Vasseur (E-mail: lvasseur@brocku.ca). The abstract should describe the case study, including (1) the general climatic, ecological, socio-economic and cultural context; (2) issue associated with rural-urban linkages; (3) type of tools/methods or approach used to tackle the issue; (4) governance considerations, e.g. role of communities and stakeholders; (5) social, economic and ecological outcomes (especially in the

context of conservation and ecosystem management); and (6) lessons learned. Abstract should have no more than 300 words.

<u>Template (for those invited to write a case study)</u>
- Selected case studies should focus on documenting how different types of strategies are used with discussion of the type of governance guiding decisions and actions. We are targeting different regions of the world and various ecosystems. Projects can be completed or continuous.
- Both successful and unsuccessful examples can be used to highlight what should be replicated or avoided and what can be inspiring.
- Each case study should be up to 5000 words (including abstract), but can be much shorter, and include references and links to additional reading material.
- Authors, relevant individuals, and implementing institutions should be credited accordingly.
- Information that should be included in the text: geographical location; scale of the project; types of ecosystems; context; reason for action; brief description of methods used; governance context and process; outcomes and results; and discussion which includes current status of the project, level of success (or lack), reason for success or failure, governance issues, lesson learned, challenges, future prospects for the case study; and references.
- Additional information can include maps, photos, etc.