

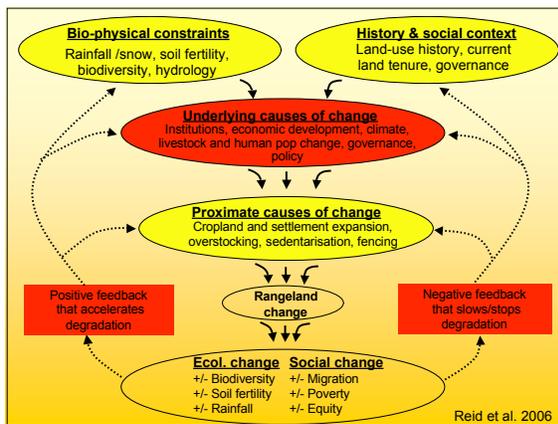
## Needs, barriers and opportunities for developing policy and community-relevant research



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## Overview

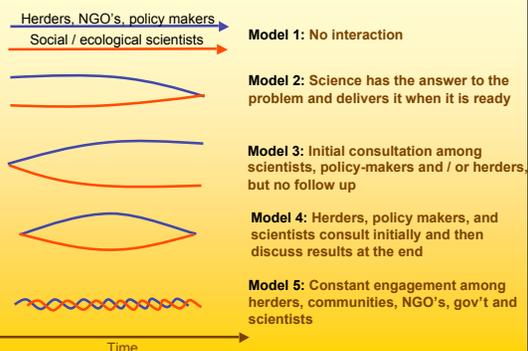
- Over-arching entry points for policy to affect management
- How difficult creating information that is useful to communities and policy makers is
- Different models of interaction among stakeholders
- Planning backwards as one approach
- Participatory ways to co-create knowledge together
- Working to continually span boundaries among policy-makers, communities and researchers
- Potential needs and opportunities for creating relevant research



## Problems with linking science with policy and community needs

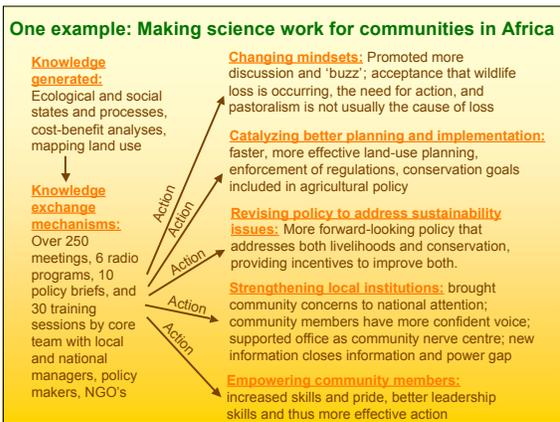
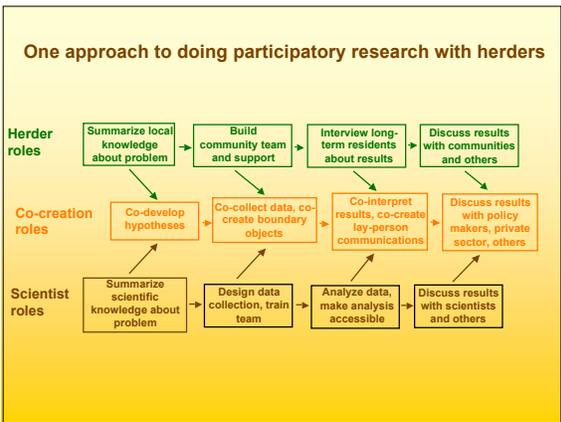
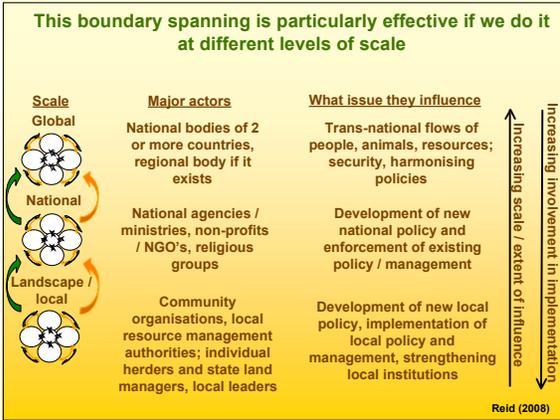
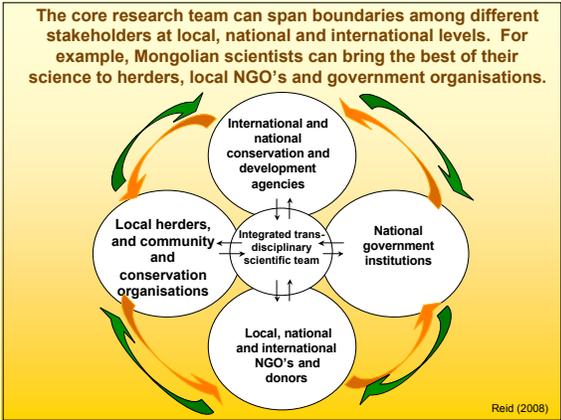
- Herders, policy makers and scientists have different needs and incentives
- Scientists often focus on what is interesting to discover, not what would be useful to communities and policy makers
- We often miss an opportunity make use of all knowledge (herders, policy makers, scientists) and focus only on one type of knowledge (scientific)
- The products scientists think are useful (e.g., complex models) make scientists the only 'experts' and are too abstract to be useful initially.
- Scientists often need a lot of time to produce reliable information, making information out-of-date for community / policy needs
- Communities often do not value their own knowledge strongly and do not criticise ideas from scientists enough

## Different models for linking research with policy and communities



## Making science relevant: Key questions to ask to plan backwards to link needs with knowledge

- What are the critical issues that communities / policy makers are now struggling to resolve?
- Of these issues, which ones lack critical information that new knowledge can provide?
- What local, scientific and policy knowledge is needed to fill this gap in our understanding of this issue?
- Then, working backwards: What map, model, analysis can we produce together that will most effectively support action by herders, NGO's, communities on the ground? Or will best inform current critical policy debates?



Potential needs & opportunities for creating research relevant for policy makers and community members in Mongolia

- Two way relationship between the research and policy development
- Recognition of CBNRM as a scientific subject
- Recognition of importance of CBNRM as natural resource policy direction
- Experimenting with evaluating long-term social and ecological outcomes

Potential needs & opportunities for creating research relevant for policy makers and community members in Mongolia

- Examine more specific phenomena where social and ecological systems are integrated in a common property management system
- Opportunity to scale-up and compare with other initiatives/projects within the country
- Opportunity to compare with other countries' initiatives/projects
- Resilience assessment for the semi-arid and arid ecological zones

#### **Discussion questions**

- **Is there a gap between research and policy makers and communities?**
- **What are some ways we can make sure research is relevant to the needs of policy makers and communities?**
- **What are the big concerns from the perspective of policy makers and the perspective of herders?**