

International Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration and Geospatial Analysis as an Integrative Tool

Melinda Laituri, Colorado State University

This talk will focus on the role of interdisciplinary research to further the aims of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM). Many seemingly intractable environmental issues, climate change, sustainable development, disaster management, require an integrated or systems approach to bridge perspectives and create linkages between complex processes. Interdisciplinary research provides a means to develop cross-disciplinary models, improve communication, and develop new methods and tools for analysis.

Geospatial technologies provide useful tools for furthering the development and application of interdisciplinary research. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remotely sensed data (RS), and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are increasingly being used for ecological assessments, resource management, and innovative uses of local knowledge for environmental planning.

The intersection of an interdisciplinary approach within the context of CBNRM and the adoption of geospatial technologies call for careful planning of international research projects. This presentation will define interdisciplinary research, identify key issues with regard to GIS, and provide some general rules for interdisciplinary activity.