

IUCN
Wetlands
and Water
Resources
Programme

BLUE SERIES

The rehabilitation of the delta of the Senegal River in Mauritania

Fielding the ecosystem approach

Olivier Hamerlynck & Stéphanie Duvail
IUCN Mauritania



Ecosystem Approach Theme

75 members

Olivier Hamerlynck

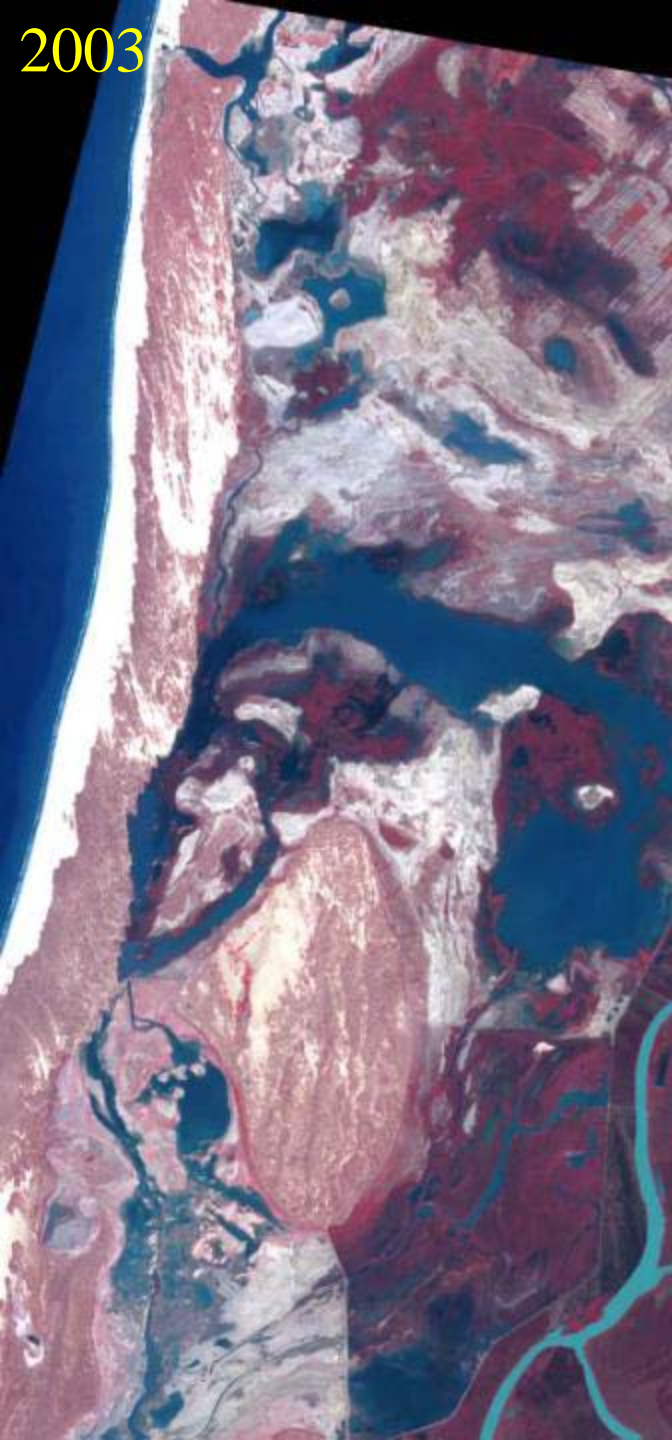
1992

Within IUCN

- in the 1990s IUCN was challenged to prove what they preached
- keywords: integrated, participatory, multidisciplinary, CBNRM
- the ecosystem approach came in as a useful synthesis of what was being done intuitively

the principles are “common sense”
to open-minded people
implementing field projects

common sense is rare both within and
outside of IUCN



2003

- IUCN secretariat is now playing at policy level, fieldwork is left to members, donor fatigue, C-fashion
- SSC is increasingly understanding biodiversity as a system
- WCPA has moved outside fences and let people in (CCAs)
- CEM & CEESP (the people people) have contributed to this change of mindframe

SHARING POWER

LEARNING-BY-DOING IN CO-MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

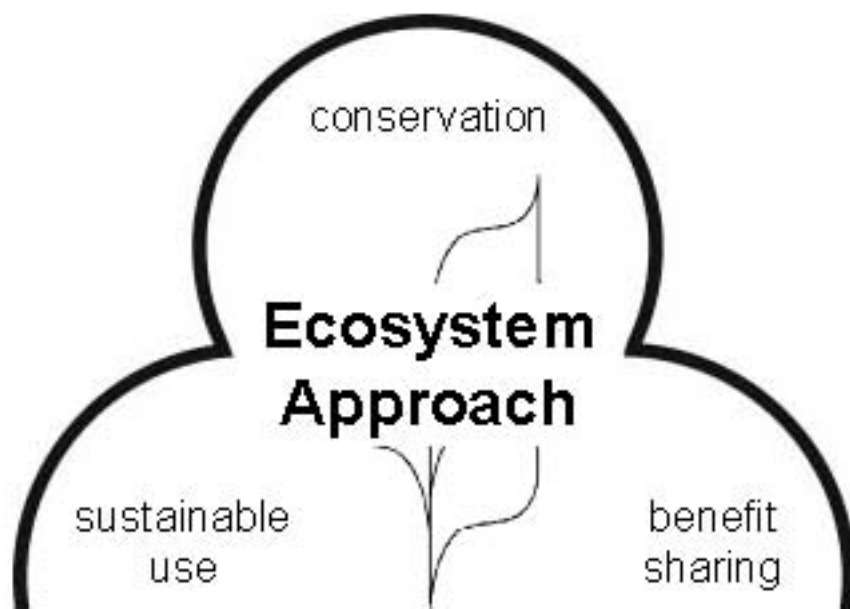
Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Michel Pimbert, M. Taghi Farvar,
Ashish Kothari and Yves Renard

Out in the real world

Horst Korn, Rainer Schliep & Jutta Stadler (Eds.)

Report of the International Workshop on the “Further Development of the Ecosystem Approach”

Vilm 2002



- Vilm workshop tried to improve on the EA formulation
- but entails a risk: some nations balk e.g. at decentralised management
- therefore EA would not sail through now or might be downgraded

“frozen in time”

From « biblical » principles to practical application

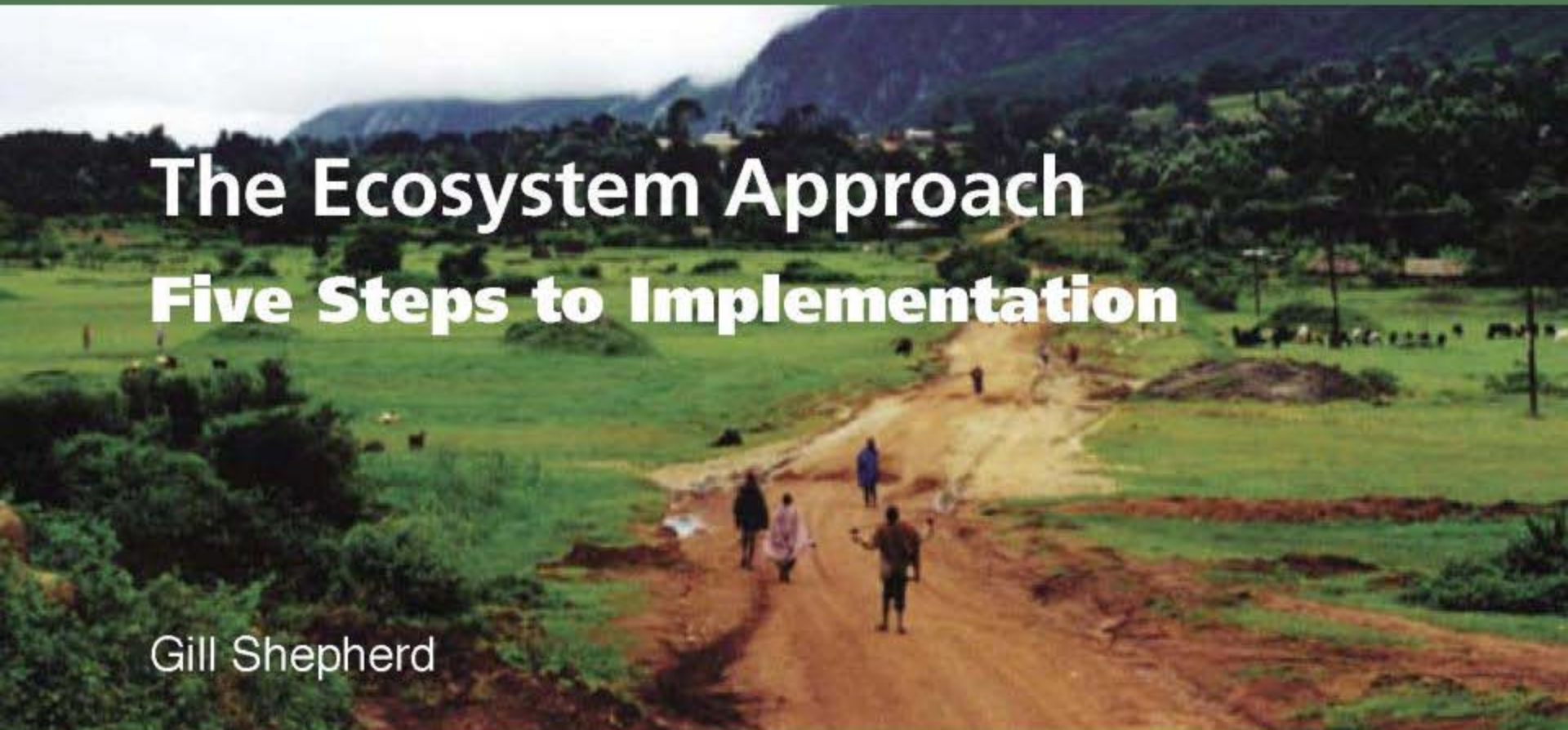
2004

Ecosystem Management Series No. 3



The Ecosystem Approach Five Steps to Implementation

Gill Shepherd



A wealth of case studies

Smith R. & Maltby E. 2003. *Using the Ecosystem Approach to Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity: key issues and case studies*



The Ecosystem Approach

Learning from Experience

Gill Shepherd, Editor

2008



Building Resilience to Climate Change

Ecosystem-based adaptation and lessons from the field

Edited by Ángela Andrade Pérez, Bernal Herrera Fernández
and Roberto Cazzolla Gatti

2010



Issue: Preaching to the converted, are read only by junior staff
decision-makers do not read
impact confined to the powerless environment ministry

Lake Faguibine system, Mali

UNEP/UNOPS Ecosystem Management Programme



HUMAN WELL-BEING

Freedom of choice
and action to achieve
basic material needs,
health, security,
good social relations

INDIRECT DRIVERS:

Demographics
Economic processes (globalisation, trade)
Scientific-Technological Innovation
Distribution Pattern processes (equity)
Cultural, social, political & institutional
processes (belief systems, governance,
policies, legal framework)

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Cultural services
Provisioning services
Regulating services
Supporting services

ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

Basic elements of life:
CHNOPS and
associated cycles

Biodiversity:
composition, structure
and function

DIRECT DRIVERS (PRESSURES):

Land use change
Resource extraction
External inputs (fertilisers,
pesticides, irrigation)
Emissions (CO_2 , N_2O , CH_4)
Modification and
movement of organisms
(invasives)

Government vs. Civil society



- Andrade Pérez & Medina 2008
Applying the Ecosystem Approach in Latin America
- NGOs and communities are implementing in the USA (has not ratified the CBD)
- works where supported by policy and non-biodiversity incentive (FSC)
- hard to find sustained and sufficient funding for a true impact, weak SHs
- lack of capacity & freedom to manage
- participatory wish list, no vision
- risk for a fragmented approach in space and time

- need get out of the traditional protected area black hole
- need to move to a range of ecosystems in the wider "development" landscape
- need for good case studies e.g. Man & Biosphere "reserves" and from Community Conserved Areas, mobile people
- need to get a foot in the door in the sectoral ministries that count (through the "one" UN?)
- build capacity in regional/local govt. now often in charge of environment with each sector run by only a handful of staff
- provide direct advice to decision-makers with an issue e.g. succesful "EA learning centre" at the 17th UN Sustainable Development Conference (May 09)
- provide targeted highly digestible information to other stakeholders e.g. tourism industry, mining sector, agro-industry, energy sector



- need to incorporate institution building and to establish links with governance (sharing power, mixed govt - civil society forums, 'societal choice' is key)
- other aspects of human well-being need to be built into toolkits
- provide strong support/facilitation for weak stakeholders (Ndiael, compact) and CCAs without smothering local initiatives
- there is an increased risk for a purely economics approach, expressing value in \$US only, attracts the "wrong" decision-makers

Thank You

