

Theoretical and practical considerations on Co-management of Natural Resources and related professional education

Abstract. Co-management has been among the most popular solutions proposed for making use of natural resources more sustainable. Management science has produced wide range of methodological innovations to enhance different aspects of co-management, but still practice seems to be reluctant to apply consistently proposed innovations. One reason for the resistance is that the co-management practices and applied methodologies aren't firmly and transparently grounded on theoretical standing-points. Weak theoretical basis may lead to ad-hoc methodological solutions and there after negative experiences on co-management.

In the presentation, basing on the consistent literature review, a theoretical frame-work of co-management is presented to guide the co-management practices and educational efforts of natural resource professionals. Frame-work is then exemplified, first, by the case-studies on the co-management of forest resources, and secondly, by the study programs of natural resource managers in Finnish Universities.