The Adaptive Watershed
Training program for inclusive,
ecosystem-based watershed management
Learning objectives

After completing this module, you will be able to:

1. List and analyze the primary stakeholders within the watershed.
2. Deconstruct and compare the power relations among stakeholders.
3. Identify particularly vulnerable social groups involved in different land use activities; analyze why they are vulnerable or more resource-dependent than other groups.

Module 3: Stakeholders and Vulnerable Social Groups
Key questions to be answered

- Who are the primary stakeholders with interest in the resources within the watershed, and what makes them “primary”?
- Which social groups are involved with identified land use practices and economic activities and would some of them be more vulnerable than others?
Who are your stakeholders?

- Stakeholders are people and institutions with something to gain or lose from how the watershed is managed.
- Stakeholder analysis is a technique to identify key people who are or have to be convinced management actions will benefit their definition of successful watershed management.
Activity: Stakeholder analysis

(15 min)

- Who are the “primary” stakeholders in our watershed who have an interest in the resources identified in Module 2?
- Generate a list of key stakeholder groups for each land use and economic activity identified in the watershed map?
Plenary discussion (15 min)

- What is common and not common among the ways different stakeholders portray the watershed?
Power mapping

• A visualization technique to show influence, possible relationships and networks of primary stakeholders

• People interested and involved in promoting positive social change—through service, advocacy and other vehicles—need to think about context and relationships among the spheres within which they work

• Power maps present a theoretical framework and a tool to tap into the power needed to make things happen
Power mapping

Most influential or powerful in terms of decision-making processes

Support social and management change in the watershed

Oppose social and management change in the watershed

No influence over management, resources or decision-making

Module 3: Stakeholders and Vulnerable Social Groups
Activity: Create a power map
(15 min)

Ask yourself

• Who is affected by your work?
• Who has influence or power over it?
• Who has an interest in a successful or unsuccessful outcome?

Stakeholders may be organizations and/or people

• We need to identify the correct individual stakeholders in a stakeholder organization

Module 3: Stakeholders and Vulnerable Social Groups
Plenary discussion (15 min)

• How does this information assist you in what can be done next?
• Are there natural allies?
• Do certain groups need more assistance and support than others?
• Can you move people within the power map?
Vulnerable social groups

- The watershed involves different social groups who are involved in different land use and economic activities

- Some of them are more vulnerable than others due to their gender, age, religion, class, caste, language
How environmental instabilities exacerbate the cycle of poverty

Example of exacerbated cycle of poverty

- Environmental Instabilities: i.e. drought/floods
- Insecure livelihoods: i.e. reduced crop yield
- Increased burden on household: i.e. more time collecting water, food, fuel
- Less time for education, income-generation

Source: Women’s Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), 2009

Module 3: Stakeholders and Vulnerable Social Groups
Inequalities remain pervasive in most of the world, particularly for women

- Of the 1.3 billion people living in the deepest levels poverty worldwide, the majority are women (~70%)
- In Africa, many women meet 90 percent of household water and fuel needs.
- Women bear greater responsibilities for crop and food production & preparation in developing world
Inequalities remain pervasive in most of the world, particularly for women

- They are active in livelihood activities related to forests and fisheries, and in agriculture women produce up to 80 per cent in Africa, 60 per cent in Asia, 30–40 per cent in Latin America.
- Agriculture is highly exposed to the risks of climate change, specifically drought and floods.
- Women must adapt to declining water supplies, floods, droughts, natural disasters, pest outbreaks and impacts on crop production.
Gender equality

“Refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women’s and men’s rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men.”

(UN Women)

We must strive for gender equality, but what does this mean?
Applying a gender lens

- Policies and plans are responsive to gender differences in needs, opportunities and capacities
- Participation in planning processes is gender-balanced
- Prioritization and allocation of finance and other resources are gender-responsive
- Opportunities, benefits and losses from actions taken are equitably shared
- There is sex-disaggregated data
- Gender analysis is carried out
- Access to information is equitable
- All sectors have the capacities needed to integrate gender considerations
- Representation of women is equitable
Activity: Identify vulnerable social groups  (20 min)

• Using the power map and the previous exercise, identify different social groups within the identified primary stakeholders and identified land use activities that you consider particularly vulnerable and explain why

Tip: Consider religion, gender, language, and access to resources
What does this mean?

Actions and plans must be context-sensitive, participatory and gender-responsive.