



Creating spaces for successfully sharing and producing knowledge in the environmental sector

SAGUF Working Group “Knowledge Sharing”



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Presentation overview

1. Knowledge, knowledge transfer and knowledge interfacing
2. Creating spaces for knowledge sharing
3. Conditions for successfully sharing and producing knowledge
4. Conclusions



Knowledge

- Knowledge: people-based; a contingent, action-guiding construct of reality
- Knowledge cultures
- Multiple knowledges



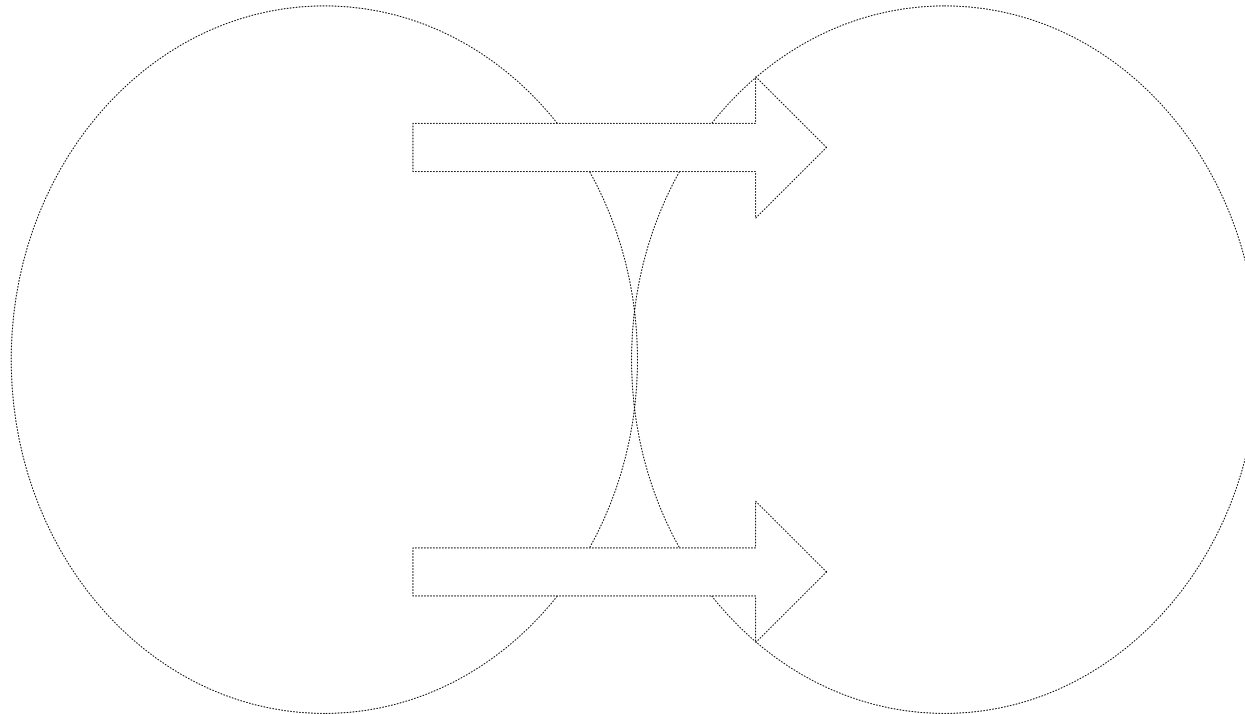
Drafting a nature conservation agenda for the Seychelles (Photo by C. Küffer, 2004)

Local knowledge

Scientific knowledge

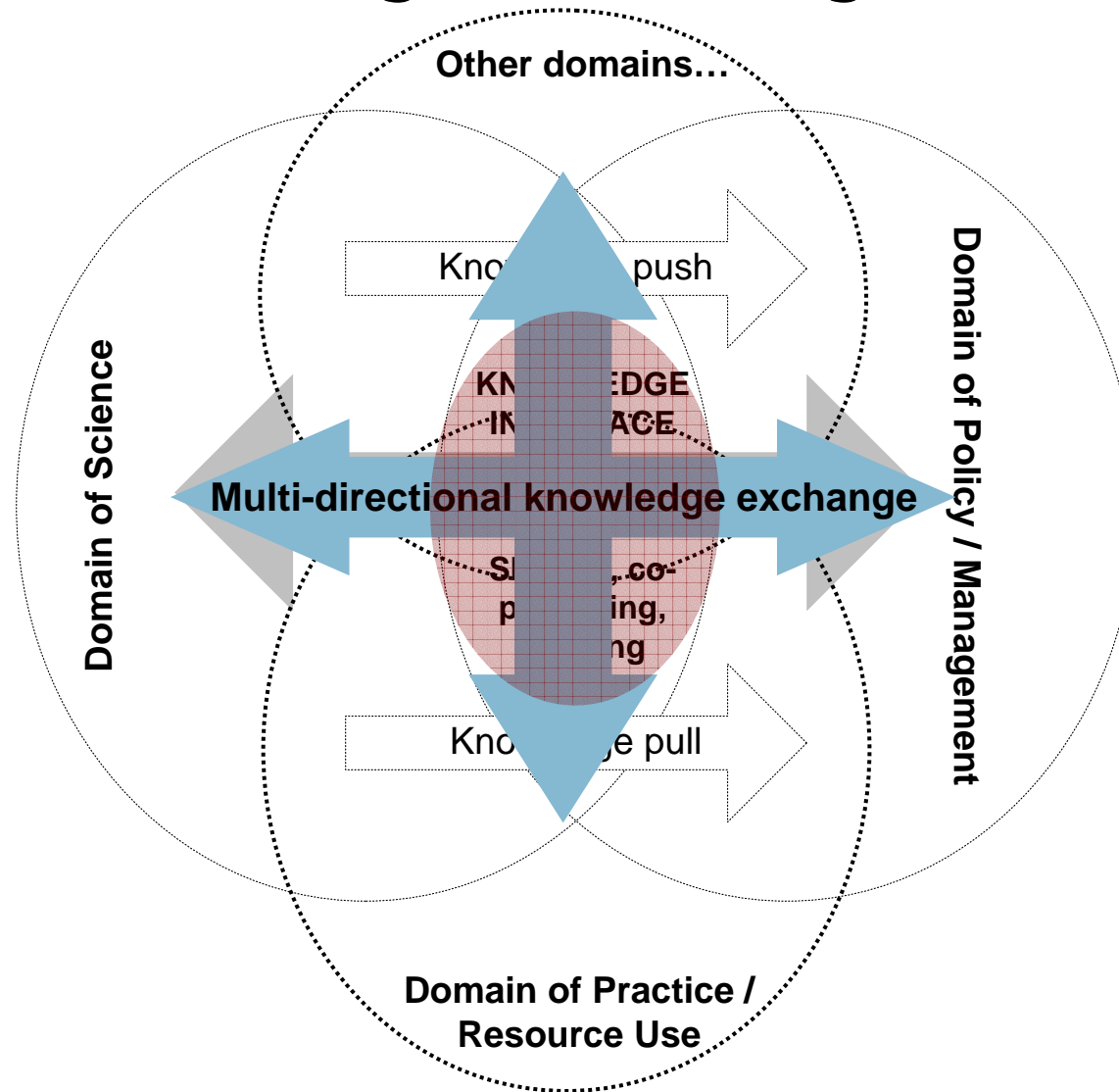
Organisational knowledge

From knowledge transfer ...



Source: Roux et al. 2006 (modified)

... to knowledge interfacing



Source: Roux et al. 2006 (modified)

Creating spaces for sharing and producing knowledge

- 10 empirical cases from agriculture, forestry, regional planning, biodiversity conservation, development cooperation
- **Created spaces:** conferences, seminars, working groups, advisory boards, further education courses, field visits, expert groups, film sessions, informal discussions



Two examples of knowledge sharing (1/2)

Learning for Sustainability (LforS)

http://www.cde.unibe.ch/Tools/ALS_Ts.asp

- Further education
- Exchange of knowledges between diverse stakeholders

Interface: Shared learning situation



She feels that this is a situation where others pay attention to what she is saying. She expresses her ideas and shares her rich experiences with them.

He enjoys the rare occasion to leave the ministerial office and to listen to local resource users' views, needs and aspirations.

Exercise in LforS workshop
(Photo by F. Bachmann, 2001)

Two examples of knowledge sharing (2/2)

From Farmer to Farmer

<http://www.vonbauernfuerbauern.ch>

- Success stories in soil protection (collection of films (DVD))
- Exchange of knowledge between farmers, extensionists, administrators, scientists



Interface: Film session

Advisory group and project leader watch and discuss end product (film) (Photo WMU, 2007)



Interface: Field visit

Farmer meets with experts and extensionists on his field (Photo WMU, 2008)

Conditions for successfully sharing knowledge

- Ample time resources
- Vigilant moderation
- Consciousness of embedded social relations (incl. role, function, hierarchy, power)
- Communication competence
- Openness towards end product or outcome



Conclusions

- Knowledge sharing and co-production at knowledge interfaces
- Complementing knowledge transfer activities
- Interfacing requires specific set of methods, skills, and interests of participating actors
- Consciousness for epistemic and working cultures in different domains
- SAGUF Working Group “Knowledge Sharing” works towards recognition of knowledge interfacing in the environmental sector





Working Group meeting, May 2008 (Photo by P. Fry, 2008)

Thank you for your attention!

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