Basic Information

Title of case study: Building up Multi-stakeholder Cross-sector Partnerships for the ‘Xinshe Forest-River-Village-Sea Ecoagriculture Initiative’ in Eastern Rural Taiwan

Submitting IPSI member organization(s): 1) National Dong-Hwa University (NDHU), Chinese Taipei

Other contributing organization(s):
- IPSI members:
  2) Hualien District Agricultural Research and Extension Station, Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei
  3) Hualien Forest District Office, Forestry Bureau, Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei
  4) Hualien Branch, Soil and Water Conservation Bureau, Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei
- Non-IPSI members:
  5) Kavalan Xinshe Community Association, Hualien, Chinese Taipei
  6) Amis Dipit Community Association, Hualien, Chinese Taipei

Author(s) and affiliation(s):
- Dr. Kuang-Chung Lee, Associate professor, 1), corresponding author;
- Dr. Melinda Fan, director, 2)
- Ms. Rui-Fen Yang, director, 3)
- Ms. Shu-Yuan Chen, director, 4)
- Ms. Li-Yun Kung, 5)
- Ms. Hui-Fen Chang, 6)
- Ms. Shao Yu Yan, 1)
- Mr. Tzu-Chieh Kao, 1)

Format of case study manuscript: English

Keywords: SEPLS, collaborative planning, multi-stakeholder platform, cross-sector partnerships

Date of submission: 15 July 2018

Geographical Information

Country: Chinese Taipei
Location(s): Xinshe village, Hualien county, Taiwan
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link: https://goo.gl/m5NKUN

Ecosystem(s):
- Forest
- Grassland
- Agricultural
- In-land water
- Coastal
- Dryland
- Mountain
- Urban/peri-urban
- Other

Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area:
The case study area starts from the ridge of the Coastal Range on the western side, extending eastward and descending into a watershed of about 600 hectares of land surrounded by the Pacific coast. The upper reaches of the watershed is distributed with national forests, in the valley in the middle reaches we can find Dipit tribe, an Amis settlement, and its farmland. In the lower reaches from the valley downward to the coastal terrace exists Xinshe tribe, a Kavalan settlement, and its farmland.

Description of human-nature interactions in the area:
Both of the settlements and farmlands of the Dipit tribe and Xinshe tribe situate inside the complete watershed on the eastern side of the Coastal Range, connecting forests, rivers, settlements and seas. Residents live at the middle and lower reaches of the river in the valley, with the river system connecting socio-ecological production landscape and seascapes: Forests and streams upstream provide residents downstream with drinking and irrigation water, firewood and wild edible plants. Surface and ground water that goes through productive farmlands and settlements is discharged into the sea, which affects ecosystem of the coastal coral reefs, which in turn affects the fishery of above two settlements.

Contents

Status: Ongoing
Period: 10/16 to present

Rationale:
Two different ethnic groups of indigenous settlements and their farmlands are located in the same watershed surrounded by forests and seas. In the past, different government sectors worked separately on different community affairs for different settlements. Resources conflicts over water usage, hunting and fishing rights happened from time to time between two above settlements. An integrated landscape approach needed to be applied and a cross-sector collaborative governance needed to be built up in the area to deal with above issues.

Objectives:
In line with the frameworks and guidelines of Satoyama Initiative and ecoagriculture, it is our hope to realize the vision of ‘living in harmony with nature’ in the Amis settlement, Dipit tribe and the Kavalan settlement, Xinshe tribe, Hualien through a multi-stakeholder platform working on revitalization of SEPLS. It is hoped that through environmentally friendly farming and fishing, the livelihoods of both indigenous communities, terrestrial biodiversity (such as crab-eating mongoose, crested serpent eagle, crested goshawk) and coastal ecosystem (such as coral reefs) can be all enhanced.

Activities and/or practices employed:
A ‘Forest-River-Village-Sea Ecoagriculture Initiative’ was launched in October 2016. The collaborative mechanism for promoting the Initiative involves a Task Force composed of 6 core members as well as a Multi-Stakeholder Platform comprised of about 20 interested stakeholders including local community organizations, central and local governmental institutions, local school, academics, NGOs, NPOs, green enterprises for planning, implementation and monitoring of new goal and action plan of the Initiative. Five steps of the participatory planning processes (including preparation and discussion, consensus-building, action planning, implementation and monitoring) for the Initiative from October 2016 to Dec 2017 were facilitated and analyzed by the research team of National Dong-Hwa University (NDHU).

Results

Referring to the ‘vision-methods-perspectives’ framework of three-fold approach to the Satoyama Initiative, an action plan for the Initiative was jointly discussed, revised and completed in March 2017, which contains a detailed structure of division of labor with 5 major categories and 38 tasks and their expected durations (short, medium or long term), main organizers and co-organizers and so on. To monitor the progress and outcomes of the Initiative, from October to November 2017 the research team adopted UNU-IAS’s indicators of SEPLS and conducted a series of workshops with local people to evaluate 20 resilience indicators as well as figure out strategies for enhancing resilience with respect to each indicator. The suggested revisions of the existing action plan for the Initiative proposed by the indicator task group were brought into the Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meeting for approval.

Lessons learned

An integrated landscape and cross-sector collaborative approach needed to be innovatively designed and applied to the area where different stakeholders’ interests and conflicts were involved. The Multi-stakeholder Cross-sector Partnerships for the ‘Xinshe Forest-River-Village-Sea Ecoagriculture Initiative’ provides an integrated landscape approach and a potential new paradigm for revitalization of SEPLS in Taiwan where many cross-level/sector stakeholders need to be involved in local areas.

Key messages

The collaborative mechanism for promoting the Initiative comprises a Task Force of core members as well as a Multi-Stakeholder Platform. Both the Task Force and the Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meetings were designed to be taken place in turn of the two settlements and to be convinced/chaired in turn by the key governmental institutions. The goal is to share responsibilities and resources among local governmental institutions and to empower the two indigenous settlements. The collaborative mechanism proves to be an innovative and effective means to help stakeholders collectively set up cross-sectoral action plans for enhancing ecosystem services and indigenous cultural values for local indigenous communities.

Relationship to other IPSI activities

The case study is related to the IPSI collaborative activity ‘Integrated project of enhancing ecoagriculture and sustainable development of rural Taiwan through international cooperation,’ implemented both by the Hualien District Agricultural Research and Extension Station (HDARES) and National Dong-Hwa University (NDHU).

Funding

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Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

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UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

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