

Stream 5 Outputs

What Stream 5 Did

- Addressed the Key Issues through a series of presentations, moderated discussions, and information gathering from other stakeholders
- Generated additional data to help shape our engagement with CBFP
- We're going to review the draft outcomes by key issue, and then discuss additional potential recommendations or action items

1. Priority Topics to be Addressed by Scientists

- Findings:
 - Data gaps and research priorities are not being communicated from decision makers to researchers
 - Priorities (from interviews):
 - Assessment of efficacy of interventions/programs
 - Understanding of the role of land tenure
 - Baseline measurements for forest conservation programs
 - We have a better understanding of priorities, but the interviews were not comprehensive.
- Recommendations:
 - Given the general applicability of much research, CBFP should consider developing and communicating clear research priorities (should College 6 discuss/raise this?)

2. Current Impact of Research

- Findings:
 - There is a lot of research being produced, but it is being under-utilized
 - Research has the most impact when it is presented to the right people at the right time
 - Most impact when translated to Development and Policy recommendations
- Recommendations/Outcomes:
 - Implement communication strategies (Key Issue #3) recommendations
 - Researchers must make an effort to promote their research to other stakeholders at CBFP
 - Academic Consortium developed a list of the current research being conducted by its members, and distributed it to interviewees

3. Communication Strategies

- Findings:
 - Researchers are publishing, but language barriers can be a problem
 - Research is not being communicated to decision makers in an effective manner
 - Using research findings in teaching is a key communication strategy
 - Communication is more effective when:
 - You draft separate communications for decision makers that are clear and concise
 - Identify all key players involved and communicate findings
 - Follow-up with decision makers after providing information

3. Communication Strategies (cont.)

- Recommendations:
 - Immediate:
 - Use COMIFAC Convergence Plan/priorities as working document for objectives
 - College 6 discusses role in furnishing research results and supporting decision making
 - Ask to present summary of research conducted to College 1 (Member states) and College X (Civil Society)?
 - Include research communication in project design and budgets
 - Share research results in different formats and tools that are more easily accessible
 - Give research results to decision makers in clear and concise format
 - Medium-term:
 - Develop science communication curricula
 - Make research results more accessible to the public (individual researchers and College)
 - Leverage people and institutions with influence to spread results (e.g. media, celebrities)
 - Share final results of interviews, which include many suggestions on how to improve communication with decision makers
 - Ask decision makers how they use information, when, and in what form

4. Research Capacity in the Region

- Findings:

- Interviewees thought more capacity was needed, but that we need to focus on specific skill sets
 - Need graduates with critical thinking skills who can compare and summarize contradicting information
- There are examples of successes (RIFFEAC, CEEAC, CBI), but brain drain and lack of funding is a serious issue
 - Did a brief assessment of capacity building efforts by theme
- Short-term funding/projects not sustainable
- Lack of permanent, sustainable facilities
- The existing capacity building efforts are not well known

4. Research Capacity in the Region (cont.)

- Recommendations/:
 - Continue effort coordinate education efforts in the region: discuss in College 6
 - College 6 communicate the importance of targeted capacity building
 - College 6 members take the suggestions about what is needed for capacity building (from semi-structured interviews and research plan revision) and internalize them
 - Political support from CBFP/COMIFAC for increased research and education funding
 - College 6/Stream 5 develops 2-3 research projects to propose (including potentially on about an assessment of decision making in the region)
- Outcomes:
 - Researchers learned about accessing new funding sources

5. Ideas for Joint Research Projects

- Findings:
 - Overlap with #1 (identification of priority topics)
- Outcomes:
 - Some connections made for researchers to collaborate, but lack of funding is a major hurdle to collaborative research
 - Inventory of existing networks and efforts and identify gaps

Additional Work: Assessing Science in Decision Making

- There is currently a very large gap between research and decision making
- Decision-making happens at different levels (functional unit, country, region). What is CBFP's role in impacting non-regional decision making?
- Links with capacity building: Need to teach critical thinking and decision making skills.
- Need for innovative approach – permanent presence in the region?

Additional Work: Assessing Science in Decision Making (cont.)

- Recommendations/Outcomes:
 - Researchers invest time and effort to connect with decision makers, share results, and provide advice
 - Learn from existing efforts to communicate
 - CBI biodiversity and climate change project
 - CIRAD research prioritizations
 - Raise the issue in College 6 and the council?
 - Pilot decision support tools?

Potential Key Issues for College 6

- Develop/finalize official research and education priorities
- Invest in human capacity building through funding for schools and research stations
- Develop a process for providing research and expert advice to decision makers
- Organizing existing networks for research and education in the region
- Assessment of projects in existing countries (what has worked and what hasn't)

Other issues to consider

- How do we make Stream 5 more than just researchers?
- How do we want to use the interview results?