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I'm interested in pursuing -- and thought I'd explore your interest as well

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Not sure if I captured all, but I was trying to reach-out all of us under the "senior statesmen/women" category of LCC Coordinators (i.e., those that have served as the 'founding Coordinator' since the beginning.)

As part of the outcome of a recent meeting with our partners we shared an interest in trying to learn from one another -- across these "22 independent experiments" that have been the LCC-approach. We'd like to learn from you as well as share some of our creative problem-solving and hurdles.

In response, I volunteered in pursuing a "Lessons Learned" study of our broader LCC community and thought that I'd start with you folks. I had done a similar study when I worked for USAID to examine the common "lessons learned" in NR across multiple countries, partners, governments, etc. spanning a 40-year legacy. It resulted in both an in-depth report based on structured in-person interviews as well as a geospatially referenced bibliography (of posted content from those interviews and generated over the years). At the time it was produced as a CD/DVD but I can now see it resulting in an on-line system which will have a life-after-LCC.

On our National call yesterday Rick spoke about an "After Action Assessment" (Rick, I wasn't sure of the acronym you used but AAcAss seemed fun to me ;)and Ben seemed to respond as an external assessment when he replied "...if funding available." But I am talking about something different.

We already have this sort of "looking in" consultant reports (NAS, the Performance work, as well as all the materials we've collectively posted as "success stories" and project catalog etc. for the National communication effort.) These are the "end of the story" -- the reduced and 'sanitized' case study -- that do not necessarily capture the human/coordinators story on (a) what it took to get it there (the human/cultural dimensions of our work) nor (b) what context (socio-economic, political, partner-trust, shared-funding etc.) It's quite likely that the secret to success lies in this last element that makes one approach successful but may or may not make its application successful elsewhere. I want to capture these hard-earned "Lessons" -- and I guess it's more of the 'learning environment' we struggle with, given the fact this is an emerging science as well as a transformational paradigm in conservation delivery.

MY ASK: I am writing to you to ask (a) if you would (philosophically) support the notion so I can decide if it's worth pursuing and specifically in this 'internal' assessment mode, and (b) if you do support the idea if you would support the effort via discussions with myself (and maybe a graduate student / potential Post-Doc to carry the ball) in providing guidance on how we might design such a study. The latter refers to two perspectives (1) to ask you if you want to share the 'back-story' behind some of your success as well as non-so successful efforts and (2) give us your input in asking "What I'd like to know is.....?" that we could weave into the study design.

Thanks for considering this. I would really appreciate your feedback.

Jean

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