

What can we learn from experience?

- Thousands of partnerships formed since WSSD; thousands more existed prior
- But literature is thin, applicability is limited, and progress has been slow
- Need for a shift from anecdotal evidence to more organized learning
- Hypothesize that lessons might be drawn out by focusing on intended outcomes rather than issue area

Partnerships Typology

- i. Action-oriented and formed to deliver a good/service critical to sustainability
- ii. Action-oriented and focused on conservation/restoration in a particular region
- iii. Research-based efforts to spur innovation in a particular sector
- iv. Disseminating science-based knowledge for sustainable impact
- v. Building communities of practice around issues of sustainability

Cases being examined

- Agua Para Todos (Bolivia)
- Common Code for the Coffee Community (Africa/Asia/ L. America)
- East Coast Fever Vaccine Development (East/Central Africa)
- Farm to Fork Initiative (U.S.)
- Global Water Challenge (Africa/Central America/Asia)
- Green Chemistry Institute (U.S.)
- Green Power Market Development Group (U.S./Europe)
- Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (Tanzania)
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (Worldwide)
- Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance (Africa/Asia/ L. America)
- Sustainable Silicon Valley (California)

Observations on Getting Started

- No 'arm-twisting' to get partners to the table
- Reputational risk appears to be a larger motivating factor than one might expect
- Problem definition is critical at the outset
 - Frame it to appeal to multiple sectors
 - Consider envisioning a solution and working backwards
 - Critical entry point for scientific information
- Important role for a 'facilitative agent'
- Scaleability and replicability of projects should be considered at the outset

Observations on Co-production

- Good governance is critical, particularly at the national level to support scale-up and replication
 - Important to bridge the gap between local and global
 - Diplomatic efforts warrant more attention
- Engaging local or small-share stakeholders is often difficult, but always rewarding and sometimes surprising
 - Often need pre-meetings prior to substantive interaction
 - Only they can advocate for what they want out of a partnership
 - Indigenous knowledge can play a larger role
- Win more, lose less is a realistic mantra
 - Must move beyond technological optimism
 - There will need to be tradeoffs

Observations on Sustainability

- Partnerships need to evolve to succeed, but need not endure forever
- Leap to institutionalization is the critical one
 - Minimizes the need for 'champions'
 - Efficient arbiter of resources
- More resources need to be dedicated to capacity building
 - Training for local staff
 - Engaging host country governments
- Be realistic about timeframes, and embrace failures

What Role for Science?

- Conducive to partnering
 - Common language and methods
 - Knows no borders
 - Accountability, transparency, and objectivity all aid partnerships
- Opportunity for more 'end-to-end' systems combining basic and applied science
- Science communication must improve and reach a broader audience

