

How Should Socio-Cultural Benefits Be Assessed?

Local Measures of Success for the John Prince Research Forest (JPRF)

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Introduction

For adaptive co-management, it is important to monitor and evaluate progress. Local opinions on how to measure success are critical for delivering the benefits that community members desire from co-management (Guba and Lincoln 1989; LaFrance 2004). While methods for developing these measures are not yet well defined, this research has shown some examples of measures for socio-cultural co-management benefits. Tl'azt'en Nation and the John Prince Research Forest are used as an example to learn about Aboriginal measures of co-management.



Method

Three types of interviews with 20 peer-nominated local experts were used in this study:

1. One-on-one interviews on desired JPRF outcomes
2. One-on-one interviews on how to measure outcomes
3. Focus group interview on how to measure outcomes

Interviews were summarized, and then transformed to measures using a set of guidelines developed in the focus group.

Results

Measures of Socio-Cultural Values

Measures were categorized into the following themes. A general description of the measures within each category is given:

Using Dakelh language and place names: oral and written use of language and place names within JPRF co-management operations and programs.

Respecting traditional governance: respect for, involvement of, and satisfaction of Keyoh holders; understanding and restoration of traditional governance systems and practices

Involving Tl'azt'enne: involvement of all ages, opportunities for participation in cultural activities and stewardship, awareness of and interest in cultural programs

Using research to preserve culture: extent, impact, benefits, and accessibility of research and findings; documentation of cultural knowledge

Using education to preserve culture: cultural curriculum and skills development, learning opportunities, sharing knowledge about Tl'azt'en culture, program quality

Supporting cultural activities: support for various Tl'azt'en led cultural revitalization initiatives, provision of facilities for cultural expression

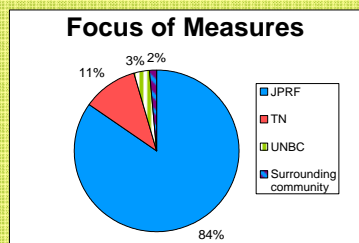
Well-being of traditional culture: condition of culture in the community and JPRF, cultural skill level, cultural employment, legal recognition of place names

Examples of Measures

Theme	MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES
Using Dakelh language and place names	Percentage of maps and signs produced by JPRF that are bilingual or primarily use Dakelh, by type	Increasing to 100%	
Involving Tl'azt'enne	Description of how JPRF has worked with Elders	Should be consistent, culturally appropriate, meaningful, engage Elders in area of expertise;	e.g., a list of Tl'azt'en Elders and their area of expertise or an active Elders Advisory Committee
Using research to preserve traditional culture	Presence of a policy that requires all JPRF documentation of Elders' knowledge to be shared with Tl'azt'en Nation	Policy should exist; must be used in practice	e.g., must follow Tl'azt'en Nation Research Protocol;
Well-being of traditional culture	Opinion of Tl'azt'enne on the level of cultural identity, cultural pride, and intergenerational connections in the community		

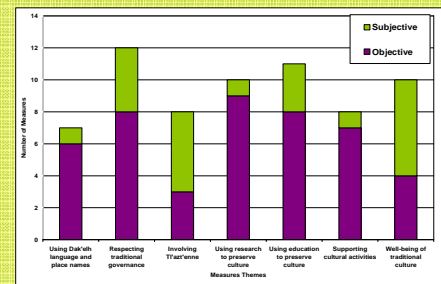
Where to Measure

While focusing on the partnership is essential, it is also necessary to monitor in the community to understand how to improve co-management.



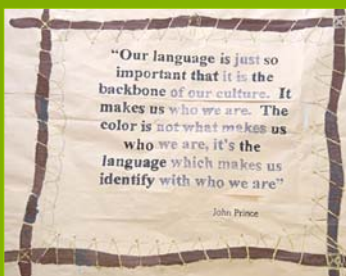
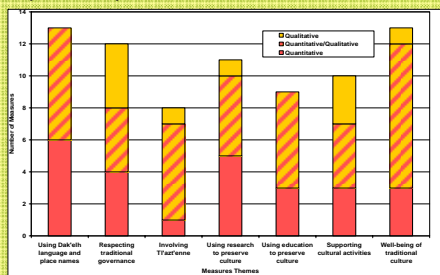
Different Sources

It is important that some measures in each theme assess the satisfaction or opinions of Tl'azt'enne. Others must look at objective sources such as maps or meeting attendance.



Qualitative/Quantitative Data

Numerical data is helpful for monitoring trends and getting objective data, but to tell the full story, some qualitative data is also needed.



Discussion

These results are the first step in implementing an adaptive management plan to improve co-management. It will be up to the community, and those involved in the JPRF to test the effectiveness of these measures in an operational context.

Further work is needed for measures of other outcomes, for example environmental and economic outcomes.

These measure may provide insights on other co-management partnerships where cultural values should be provided.

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