



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

PhD Programme 'Biodiversität und Gesellschaft'
Chair of Forest- and Nature Conservation Policy
Department of Cultural Anthropology

FINAL WORKSHOP REPORT

“(De-) Constructing Biodiversity”

23 – 24 September 2011





GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

PhD Programme 'Biodiversität und Gesellschaft'
Chair of Forest- and Nature Conservation Policy
Department of Cultural Anthropology

Project Title	(De-) Constructing Biodiversity Workshop, 23 rd – 24 th September 2011		
Start Date	1 December 2010	End Date	31 October 2011
Main Funding Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Göttinger Graduiertenschule Gesellschaftswissenschaften (GGG) and KMU-Network 		
Other Funding Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Georg-August-University Foundation - Andrea von Braun Foundation - Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology - Chair of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy and Forest History - Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development of the Göttingen University 		
Organisational and material support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF) - Naturkost Elkershausen - Naturmilchhof Gartetal 		
Project Organizing Team	Munir Hoffmann; Sascha Kessler; Valérie Liebs; Katrin Reuter; Manjola Salla; Nazmus Sadath ; Carsten Schusser; Bianca Volk		
Partner Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology - Chair of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy and Forest History - Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development of the Göttingen Universität 		
Project Contact Person:	Sascha Kessler e-mail: sascha.kessler@sowi.uni-goettingen.de		
Workshop Web URL	http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/209803.html		

Document Title	Final Report
Reporting Period	1 December 2010 – 21 October 2011
Authors	Munir Hoffmann; Sascha Kessler; Valérie Liebs; Katrin Reuter; Manjola Salla; Carsten Schusser; Bianca Volk

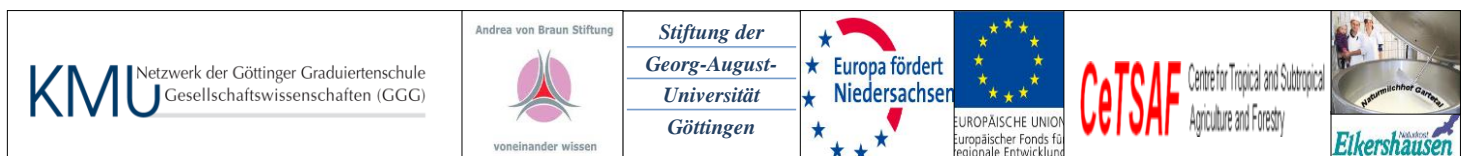


TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	4
I. INTRODUCTION.....	5
II. WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION	6
2.1 PANEL I	6
2.2 PANEL II	8
2.3 PANEL III	10
III. THE INTERDISCIPLINARY ASPECT: INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINES' PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORKSHOP	15
3.1 SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS' PERSPECTIVES	15
3.2 FOREST POLITICS' PERSPECTIVES.....	16
3.3 PHILOSOPHER'S PERSPECTIVE	17
IV. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK	18
V. ANNEXES	21

Acknowledgements

(De-) Constructing Biodiversity Workshop, was organised on 23 – 24 September 2011, initiated by a funding opportunity of the Kleinere und Mittlere Unternehmen-Network (KMU), which forms part of the Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences (GGG). Thanks go to the network for their institutional and financial support. We are grateful to the Andrea von Braun Foundation for their financial support, for prompt responses, as well as uncomplicated procedures. Further, we thank the Göttingen University Foundation, the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, the Chair of Forest History, and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development at Göttingen University for their financial support. Thanks also go to the Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF) for organizational support, as well as Naturkost Elkershausen for the organic apples and the Naturmilchhof Gartetal for the supply with organic milk.

The Working Group would also like to thank the keynote speakers, Prof. Dr. Paul Sillitoe and Prof. Dr. Bas Arts for their contribution in the workshop as well as all the participants. We would also like to thank Mrs. Linda Szücs for the logistical support she provided during the workshop.

1. Introduction

The idea to organize a common workshop on biodiversity came up one year ago, in summer 2010. Eight PhD students from forest- and nature conservation policy, social and cultural anthropology as well as philosophy were motivated by a call of the “Netzwerk der Göttinger Graduiertenschule Gesellschaftswissenschaften (GGG)” to organize a joint interdisciplinary workshop on biodiversity. Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Schareika (Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology Göttingen) agreed to supervise the project.

In September, we agreed on the title “(De-) Constructing Biodiversity”. The idea was to organise a workshop that would bring together interested scholars from different disciplines and that could serve as a platform for future multidisciplinary engagement on biodiversity. Very soon the challenges of interdisciplinarity were clear when we started to discuss and agree meticulously on the contents of the workshop. During the application process, nearly every sentence of the workshop description was disputed and revised. Regarding the ‘biodiversity’ team, manifold ideas and interests from different disciplines became evident. Therefore, it became increasingly difficult to use the term ‘biodiversity’ without repeatedly explaining how it is used in specific contexts. This, we agreed, should become apparent in the workshop conceptualization. After numerous and dynamic discussions about the main issues of the workshop, we decided to have three panels, one introductory one, one on power relations, and the other on communication of the biodiversity concept. Within these panels, differences and overlaps between different ways of framing biodiversity in the respective academic disciplines could be shown.

When we started the project, we had not expected that our workshop would attract such an enormous number of students and senior scholars, which proves the broad interest in the subject we have chosen. We were extremely happy that our concerns were shared by people ranging from Master students to internationally renowned scholars like Prof. Paul Sillitoe (Durham, Department of Anthropology) and Prof. Bas Arts (Wageningen, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy).

In what follows, we would like to draw attention on the panel contents, then draw attention to the interdisciplinary aspects of the workshop planning, accomplishment, and future collaboration perspectives, followed by the budget presentation and explanations of changes.

2. Workshop description

2.1 Panel I: Different Perspectives on Biodiversity

In panel 1, the speakers Prof. Paul Sillitoe, Prof. Kerstin Wydra, and Nazmus Sadath have been invited to address the following questions:

1. Which epistemological, theoretical and conceptual bases are helpful to understand biodiversity from many perspectives? Which aspects are potential sources of misunderstandings and may hinder interdisciplinary cooperation?
2. Which practices of knowledge transfer and networking may influence cooperation in interdisciplinary working groups?
3. Which methods and research practices can help to work interdisciplinary on biodiversity (or other related subjects)?

Paul Sillitoe gave a presentation entitled: *“Some Observations on (De)-constructing Biodiversity Conservation Issues in Two Contexts - New Guinea & Arabia”*. Sillitoe is Professor for Cultural Anthropology at the University of Durham. From his PhD thesis onwards he had spent several years of research in the highlands of Papua New-Guinea, where he has lived with the Wola, an ethnic group of swidden agriculturalists. He has published widely about his research in this region and his monographs became classics of anthropological literature about the Pacific region and local knowledge. Since 2008 Sillitoe holds the Qatar Shell Professorial Chair in Sustainable Development (University of Qatar). Within this context he investigates local natural resource management in the region dominated by desert.

In his presentation Sillitoe claimed that the conservation of biodiversity is not an issue in the villages of the Wola in the mountains of New Guinea. These people, he said, have been able to farm since 10.000 years without reducing the rain forest significantly. Sillitoe argued that the key for the understanding of their farming system and the human-environment relation in the highlands in general is tacit knowledge. This kind of knowledge cannot be surveyed by interviews only, but rather should be investigated by a combination of observation, questionnaires and agriculturalist methods like soil sampling. In this context Sillitoe raised a particular issue of interdisciplinary research: Recourse to natural science invites accusations of ethnocentricity in seeking to answer questions that occur to the scientist but not to those living in the Highlands whose knowledge is more tacit. He argued that such accusations - by postmodern social sciences - prohibit interdisciplinary collaboration. Sillitoe argued that

interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration *is* possible and that the anthropologist's task consists of pointing out the necessity of considering *tacit* attitudes to agencies engaged in conservation.

Based on his findings that local farmers have for centuries successfully practiced agriculture in the marginal highlands of Papua New-Guinea, Sillitoe strongly promoted the incorporation of local knowledge on the agenda of biodiversity conservation. Nevertheless, referring to the famous stereotype of the 'ecologically noble savage', he warned us not to romanticize local knowledge and not to misinterpret it as ecologically sustainable in itself. Keeping this aspect in mind, Sillitoe led over to his second case study. Contrary to the Papua New-Guinean highlands, Qatar has experienced a dramatic socioeconomic change in the last 50 years due to the discovery of large oil and gas reservoirs. The high revenues enabled some tribes to increase stocking sizes of their camel herds, which in this case lead to the continuing degradation of natural resources. The cases showed that local behavior is not always adapted to the environment; especially in times of rapid social and economic changes it can indeed be very destructive.

Like Sillitoe, the second presenter Prof. Kerstin Wydra pointed out in her talk "*The insurance function of agrobiodiversity and the importance of monitoring its conservation and use to cope with change*" to the importance of small-scale farming for maintaining biodiversity. Wydra is acting director of the Center of Agriculture and Forestry in the Tropics and Subtropics (CETSAF) in Göttingen. She is agronomist and especially interested in crop protection. While Sillitoe has discussed the significance of local knowledge for the creation of sustainable farming practices, Wydra focused on the diversity of crop resources and their relevance for the success of small-scale farmers. Small-scale farmers have produced over thousands of years crop varieties, which were adapted to local conditions (soil, climate, etc.). This enormous diversity came under threat due to the *Green Revolution*, which propagates worldwide only very few productive varieties.

Wydra emphasized that in the coming decades humankind will be challenged by growing population and climate change. We might thus need this wide range of crop varieties, which could have desirable traits like adaptation to drought, salty soils, floods, diseases etc. in this sense, local adapted varieties work as insurance against increasing risks. The presentation showed clearly the challenges global agricultural regimes face in the 21st century, and it offered one potential key element to solve it by promoting a small scale and diversified agriculture. This problem-solving character of the presentation was based on the concept of

applied natural sciences, which is not concerned with deconstruction of the concept of biodiversity but rather asks how we can overcome the loss of species.

In the final presentation entitled “*Disputing Biodiversity in an interdisciplinary project*”, Sadath Nazmus gave an example of a failed interdisciplinary working project mounted to establish a nature conservation park in the mangrove delta of Bangladesh. Nazmus, PhD candidate at the department of Forest Policy and Conservation at the University of Göttingen, critically engaged with interdisciplinary as well as transdisciplinary collaboration (i.e., the collaboration between scientists and stakeholders). He showed that biodiversity conservation is not only challenged by different scientific perspectives on biodiversity, but also by different interests in terms of finances, power and prestige.

Panel discussant Dr. Veronika Fuest, who holds a PhD in anthropology and works currently as a research coordinator at the department of research funding strategy (Stabsstelle Forschungsförderung) at Göttingen University, summarized the presentations as follows: Humans modify the natural landscape and are able to use it in sustainable (example Papua New-Guinea), as well as non-sustainable ways (Qatar). Thereby they create and use what anthropologists call local knowledge and what natural scientists call agrobiodiversity. While the applied natural sciences are concerned with how to stop the loss of species, social scientists often refer to the social and discursive construction and the limited applicability of the concept biodiversity on the local level. In addition to these conceptual interdisciplinary differences, the third presentation showed that groups in concrete working environments not only had to integrate different conceptual ideas, but also depend on the good will of every participant to communicate openly to each other.

2.2 Panel II: Communicating Biodiversity

Panel 2 was entitled “Communicating Biodiversity”. Thus, it focused on the way the term and concept of biodiversity were communicated, coined in discourse, and debated. Three speakers contributed to this topic: Prof. B.J.M. (Bas) Arts from Wageningen University, Christelle Bakhache, M.A., and Dr. Lukas Giessen, currently attached to Wageningen and Göttingen Universities.

The keynote speaker in Panel 2, Prof. B.J.M. (Bas) Arts is Professor at the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group at Wageningen University and Research Centre, Wageningen (Netherlands). Since 2002, he has been affiliated as a guest researcher to the Max Planck Institute on Common Goods in Bonn. His works focus on new modes of

governance in forest and biodiversity policies and in natural resource management at various levels of the spatial and administrative scales (from the local to the global). Bas Arts is author and co-author of over 100 academic publications, including journal papers, book chapters, edited volumes, and research reports (e.g. in *International Political Science Review*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Policy Sciences*, *Quality & Quantity* and *Journal of European Public Policy*).

Professor Arts started his presentation with an overview about the nature conservation policy in the Netherlands. Arts pointed out that along with a new government and a re-formation of the cabinet, a change on nature conservation policy has been induced. Just recently, this has been reflected by a severe budget cut for nature conservation activities, a will to decentralize the provinces' decisions on nature conservation, as well as intent to privatization, to reassess the Dutch ecological network (EHS) and reassess the implementation of N2000.

Arts then presented how nature is more recently being seen by the majority of Dutch citizens. The views go in the direction of urban nature environment, nature for recreational purposes and nature as a source for resources rather than into the direction of the uniqueness and importance of the species themselves. Scientists and experts in conservation, he argued, are using a kind of technical biodiversity jargon, which is difficult to understand by common people. With their discourses on species counting, counting techniques, creation of databases, warning messages and impact counts and so on, experts, on the one hand, forgot about the commoners and their specific interests in nature, but on the other hand also left behind farmers and their needs.

Arts concluded this discussion saying that the trend of low resonance of the technocratic biodiversity discourse among the population echoes drastic conservation policy changes of the new Dutch government. Biodiversity became a nationally endangered concept, and experts and scientists would do well to start some new discourses on that. Arts suggested, that this might be the Living with biodiversity (by Turnhout) and public ecology (by Robert & Hull) approaches. There's a necessity not only to de- but also re-construct biodiversity issues, emphasized Arts, but left open how this could be done.

The second speaker in Panel 2 was Christelle Bakhache, who just finished her Master degree. She presented an interaction and communication focused case study from Madagascar. The presentation focused on utterances of development workers in a project conducted by Durrell's Wildlife Conservation Trust. The program applied a method called participatory ecological monitoring aiming to give locals a set of tools that enables them to observe and document their environment according to the program's criteria. However, the program turned out to be one of the examples of failed transdisciplinary communication

because of the lack of common codes. For example, there was no local expression for the term biodiversity. The translation the project applied did not cover the meaning of biodiversity in English but transported a lot of meanings that were unfavourable for the project outcomes. The presentation held by Dr. Lukas Giessen was entitled “Framing as Interest-driven Exercise: the competing attempts of framing rural development policy”. Giessen is a trained forest manager and holds a PhD in Forest Policy. At the chair of forest and nature conservation policy in Göttingen, he is working as a research assistant. Among his various activities is the managing editorship of Forest Policy and Economics and membership in the working group Regional governance and Integrated Rural Development.

Giessen’s speech focused on the theoretical issue of situation framing in political discourse. He pointed to the fact that framing is carried out unconsciously in many situations, but that in many other situations, framing is a conscious endeavour, carried out by influential actors and their coalitions. The theoretical construction of framing is thus paralleling the concept of agenda setting in the social and political sciences. But Giessen pointed out that the framing activity has to start earlier in time than the agenda setting activity, as it provides powerful actors with the means to control discourse, which allows influencing the actual stages of agenda setting. Giessen illustrated his argument with several empirical cases, for example the Leader and the Active Regions’ funding program by the European Union. He concluded with the argument that many of the prevalent policy discourses, such as the discourse on rural development, are very consciously framed by public bureaucracies from different policy sectors, aiming to increase their influence in this area and to obtain hegemonic status.

The three heterogeneous presentations were summarized and discussed by Nazmus Sadath. The discussion focused on the case studies presented as well as the inspiration given by the presentation of Lukas Giessen. It gave way to a more fundamental discussion about the future of interdisciplinary work on the topic of biodiversity and the possible collaboration partners that took place after the lunch break (due to Lukas Giessen’s time schedule, Panels II and III had been interchanged at short notice).

2.3 Panel III: Power Relations, Stakeholders and the Negotiation of Biodiversity

The aim of Panel III was to discuss biodiversity-related problems regarding negotiation and power. The keynote speaker of this panel was Prof. Dr. Bas Arts for a second time. His presentation in this panel was focused on “*Five faces of power in biodiversity politics*”. The key question he raised at the beginning of the presentation was strongly related to the concept of power and how the exercise of power is being intrinsically linked to one’s

perspective and interests. Arts presented to the audience some influential accounts on the 'four faces of power', mentioning Dahl (1st face); Bachrach and Baratz (two faces); Lukes (three dimensions) and Foucault (4th face). In the field of biodiversity, these accounts were run through as follows: 1) Agency: capacity to achieve outcomes; 2) Relational: A causes B to do something (s)he otherwise would not do ; 3) Dispositional: authority over 'subordinates'; 4) Institutional: rules that enable some, constrain others; 'mobilization of bias' ; 5) Productive: constitution of subjects and identities through discourse

The power of discourse – also referred to as discursive, productive, or facilitative power in the literature – generally refers, in a Foucauldian sense, to how (post)modern subjects and identities are constructed by systems of language, knowledge and governance. Part of this has been coined as 'environmentality' by Agrawal (2005), i.e. how actors are transformed into environmental subjects by discourses and related technologies of power and government. In the presentation was also reflected upon the concept of biodiversity performed in the environmental subject construction (in countries like the Netherlands). Arts argued that environmental awareness (in general) had become part and parcel of daily life, but that the concept of biodiversity had not been resonated at large.

"The power process is complex and is mainly lead by political influence" said Prof. Bas Arts during his presentation. To understand this, discursive institutionalism and social representation theory would help to understand how and why discourses might culturally resonate and socially institutionalize or not. It was concluded that the concept has been hijacked and materialized by experts in such ways that many land users and citizens have become alienated from biodiversity-rich 'elite' nature in the Netherlands.

The second speaker of this panel was Mrs. Isabelle Kunze, PhD student at Leibniz University Hannover, Environmental Planning Department. She is a geographer with a social scientist background. Her research deals with feminist/postcolonial approaches to environmental (indigenous) knowledge formation and (agro) biodiversity. Her PhD research topic is on "The social organisation of values and knowledge in agro biodiversity: the case of rice cultivation in Wayanad, India". She presented one aspect out of her current work entitled "Who cares? Biodiversity in Agriculture". She briefly introduced the research area of the project (South India and the intraface concept). Her talk aimed to critically engage with different perspectives on agro biodiversity through the lens of male and female farmers, NGOs and policy makers in the context of rapid land use change. Based on the case of paddy cultivation she explored approaches that various actors follow in order to operationalise, use and ignore the term agro biodiversity to pursue their interests. Kunze argued that the notion of biodiversity as a political and academic project has been captured by the vested interests

of real-world actors with multiple and sometimes conflicting identities. As such, Kunze aimed to offer an original contribution to the debate on power and biodiversity while proposing an analysis of the negotiations at the *intrafaces*. This included the analysis of actor's values and interests, the existing relations of cooperation and conflict, the distribution of cost and benefits, power and voice.

Kunze presented three methodological approaches: (1) The net-map method analysis provided insight into strategic networks concerning decreasing paddy cultivation by local government and local environmental advocacy initiatives. The mapping exercises revealed power and interaction, flow of resources and line of commands. (2) The analysis of the strategies and alliances of key players was supplemented by the results of stakeholder workshops with male and female farmers. (3) Case studies of landed and landless tribal communities involved in paddy cultivation were accomplished. The contribution based on empirical data from Kerala thus aimed to demonstrate the usefulness of listening carefully to the interpretations and (re)conceptualisations of biodiversity in agriculture by involved (minor) actors.

Yves Hausser, the third speaker in panel III, is lecturer at the Natural Resources Management Department at the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland. Trained in Political Science and Developmental Studies, he specialized in applied research and development projects on protected areas in Europe as well as Africa (e.g., in Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Switzerland). He is founding member of ADAP (Association pour le Développement des Aires Protégées). His presentation focused on a comparison of research results from the Central African Republic, Tanzania and Benin with regard to Community Based Wildlife Management (CBWM) programmes. He started to give the audience an overview about the projects related to the research topic in three different countries concluding that the concept used is mostly the same. Community-based wildlife management approaches aim to improve the livelihood of local people who depend for their living on the natural resources. The key concept is that if local people could be made responsible for the management by handing over to them management rights and benefits, they would start to protect the resource rather than to destroy it. In no case, however, the reported wildlife management was completely accomplished by locals but rather has been a co-management. In all three countries the property rights remained with the state. The question poses itself: Do dwellers develop an ownership feeling, if the management is highly dominated by the influence of powerful actors like the state? Hunting quarters were often provided without a relation on the reality and the establishment processes were often

hindered by the complex administration of the state actor. None of the processes goes beyond the temporary, discretionary and contractual transfer of management, access and user rights of the resources to representative of local communities. In all studied cases, the wildlife resources remain state property, even in the Tanzanian case when it is located in village lands. All studied cases supported the creation of a new institution as representative of local communities. There are many stakeholders involved. Most of them were not appropriate in the sense that not being close enough to individual beneficiaries of these policies and open the way to bad governance and corruption. Nevertheless CBWM seems to be a promising concept since it delivers benefits, mostly generated through hunting to the local people. It makes them aware of the problems created by poaching but also offers an alternative to it. On the biodiversity it has a positive impact if biodiversity is only seen as the growth of the game population (here mostly large animals).

The last speech of this panel was given by Mr. Carsten Schusser, research assistant and PhD student at Göttingen University, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy and Forest History Department. He holds a bachelor degree in Forestry Sciences and a master degree on Tropical International Forestry. He has an extended experience as a forest consultant in the development sector in South Africa and South America. Furthermore, he has been working on community forestry projects in Namibia for 4 years and his research interests focus mainly on forest and nature conservation politics, actor-power analysis, network analysis and community based resource management.

His presentation was based on study results and an international comparative research project about community forests (CF). The concept implied involvement of communities and its people. Therefore it was crucial to know who these people were and what role they played. One common issue in all researched CF's is that the management should be done in a sustainable way contributing to an improved biodiversity of the referred resource. Knowing the involved people (actors), their power as well as their interest would help to understand the processes of negotiating the concept, and it can reveal areas of conflicts as well as of good cooperation.

The presentation was highlighting a complete method how to identify the involved actors, how to measure their power and how to determine their interest as well as how to identify the outcomes of community forestry. He was doing this by using Community Forest case studies examples from Indonesia, Namibia and Nepal and he showed how powerful actors determine the outcomes of community forestry. An interesting finding was that through the devolution of power from the central government into the hands of local people the main state actor gained

more power. This contradiction has happened due to the fact that there was no complete handover of the management responsibility; only in case of failure the local people would be appointed fully responsible. With CF the state involves local people who will mostly benefit through their involvement. At the same time they start controlling the resources to assure their benefits. Since this management is still highly influenced through the state (administrative regulations), the state increases his control via the villagers over the forest resources. The finding activities and outcomes in community forestry depend mostly on the interests of powerful actors and lead to the question: What can be done to negotiate it better and with it the issue of biodiversity? He proposed the following: a strategy change of the project, a reformulation of the project, a changing of the interests of the powerful actors or development of a new concept based on preliminary interdisciplinary research results and put this to the discussion.

The discussants of the panel were Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Schareika and Dr. Katrin Vohland. Prof. Schareika represented the Institute of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Göttingen. His main fields of research are political ethnology; local political institutions; process of negotiations and conflict solving; discourse analysis; negotiation ethnology, etc. Particular on his research activities are the areas of research, mainly situated in West Africa, as Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin and Tschad. Besides, Dr. Vohland was invited as an expert on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land use. She works at the Museum of Nature History, Leibniz Institute for Research on Evolution and Biodiversity- Humboldt University Berlin.

3. Individual Disciplines' Perspectives on the Workshop

3.1 Social anthropologists' perspective

The workshop preparations were marked by the good will to manage this endeavour in teamwork which was an essential basic for its success. However, the preparation phase took the form of a learning lesson. We, as social anthropologists, particularly learned a good deal about successful (and unsuccessful) communication in a team where face to face contacts are regular, but much of the discussions and planning is indeed being done via Email. As the team of organizers (8 persons) was rather large given the size and scope of the workshop, we consider it a success to have been able to work together for more than one year without great difficulties. This was especially due to the good conflict resolution skills of some of the team members, but also to the general level of commitment the team showed. Conflicts were treated as soon as possible and most of the time directly between the team members involved in tête-à-tête conversations. The rare difficulties in communication were, in our opinion, not exclusively due to differences in the disciplines but also in culture and the personal characters.

The workshop itself showed to be a meeting point for very interesting personalities from several disciplines, though not all the disciplines we had invited were present which narrowed the scope of interdisciplinarity a bit. However, the subjects tackled by the presenters were diverse enough. On the one hand, this has to be seen positively because it enabled discussions from a very general standpoint that integrated virtually any perspective on biodiversity and its related subjects. Indeed, the talks and presentations had spurred very interesting plenary discussions integrating different perspectives on a common subject. On the other hand, the scope of issues presented in the panels was too broad to inspire our work on biodiversity as social anthropologists in any concrete way.

We were pleased to observe that the importance of anthropological perspectives was underlined in this interdisciplinary event. Firstly, we had presentations which showed the relevance of considering local perspectives and dynamics (like Christelle Bakhaches' regarding the unsuccessful application of the foreign concept of "biodiversity" in an NGO in Madagascar). Secondly, we experienced the interest of representatives of other disciplines to benefit from anthropological perspectives on biodiversity issues. We want to emphasize that for anthropologists and forest scientists – the two disciplines that made up the majority of participants - , this workshop might be a good starting point to further collaboration. We have already found some common ground: anthropologists have been working about

environmental issues and forest management since quite some time, and the forestry sciences – at least the team members – have been interested in qualitative methods of the social sciences and their theoretical background. The team members share common research subjects but work on them in different manners; this, too, can foster fruitful collaboration in the future.

To sum up our experiences, after one year of collaboration, we have created an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding in the group. This condition, as well as the commitment of all team members, we see as the key component for multidisciplinary scientific work.

3.2 Forest Policies' perspective

Since forest policy is based on social science research method it is possible to include different fields of science that follow the same concept. The research focuses mainly on one research hypothesis that involves different research questions. We develop a theory before the research is brought into the actual fieldwork where we look for empirical observations that will support our theory. Our research activities are mostly under a special focus. This helps us to answer the research questions and contribute the test of the hypothesis. Incorporating facts and research results from other sciences is possible if this contributes to the test of the hypothesis. Whereby, there is no possibility to change our research methods completely, because the evolution of forest sciences nowadays and generation each of us represents, shows that the education on social sciences is not fully completed. We accept the fact that there are different ways of conducting a research. To accept this, other fields of science need to be on common basis; otherwise interdisciplinary work will never be successful. As a starting point, interdisciplinary work should be advantageous having different fields of science and should rather more coordinate to the contribution of answering common research questions. It is important that scientists are willing to look beyond their disciplines' borders, which would eventually form a ground for a field that is completely interdisciplinary.

3.3 Philosopher's perspective on interdisciplinary work

The process of applying and organizing the workshop was a quite interdisciplinary one. From my perspective, the formulation of the application for the GGG and KMU was the most interdisciplinary part at all.

Writing a workshop description that eight researchers from three different disciplines could agree on was a great challenge. After several meetings we collected all our ideas for the particular panels, disputed them and decided on three of them. As I was the only philosopher, this perspective did not get very much space in the workshop. I was ok with this decision, because we all together decided to focus more on the perspectives of social anthropology and forest policy, and teamwork always means making compromises, especially in interdisciplinary contexts.

My main aim was to contribute to the organization of a workshop and get to know the procedures, and also to get an idea of perspectives and methods of disciplines that are disciplinary far away from my own perspective. Forest policy and social anthropology are also concerned with social aspects of biodiversity, but these are very different from the perspective of a philosopher.

During the application process soon it became clear that we all use the term 'biodiversity' in different ways, and that we all relate different problems with the concept. Due to that fact, writing a description of the workshop including a short description of each panel was a quite long and sometimes frustrating process. But nevertheless, it was a fruitful one.

Personally, I learned a lot during the process of application and organisation. This concerns practical as well as theoretical and personal aspects of interdisciplinary work, for example aspects for being criticized as well as criticizing in a constructive manner.

All in all, I got to know perspectives on biodiversity and methods of researching aspects of biodiversity, which were completely new for me. Due to that, I was more a listener than an active participant, but, nevertheless, these new aspects provide a number of issues which I can imagine to do further interdisciplinary research on.

My personal résumé of the whole organization process is a very positive one, because it was not only time-consuming, but also – personally as well as thematic – very enriching and interesting.

4. Conclusion and outlook

Without the financial and logistical support of all our sponsors, it would not have been possible to make the workshop such a successful one. Especially, the possibility to invite speakers from the Netherlands, the UK, Switzerland and France allowed it not only to have different disciplinary perspectives, but also various views from different nationalities. The last point was important especially in the context of protecting biodiversity, because protection depends not only on research, but also on legislation, where big amounts are managed through national laws, and they are, in turn, an issue of power and communication.

Resuming the process of applying for workshop funding, it showed that this was a quite interdisciplinary work, probably the most interdisciplinary part at all. The guidelines for applying for the funding through the Göttinger Graduiertenschule Gesellschaftswissenschaften (GGG) and the KMU Network, who were our first and main sponsors, requested a workshop description not longer than three pages. So eight researchers from three different disciplines – social anthropology, forest policy and philosophy – had not only to agree on the main issues which had to be addressed during the workshop, but also had to find a common language.

Accordingly, it took a quite long time and was a big challenge to formulate three pages in a way that every team-member could agree on. During this process chances and limits of the different disciplinary approaches became, at least rudimentarily, clear. Furthermore, it became obvious that there are many common issues that have to be framed by different disciplines if the challenge of protecting biodiversity in a long term should be reached. The step from multidisciplinary to interdisciplinary work, which means, from the specific mono-disciplinary usages of the term to a more common usage should not be underestimated.

The problem was not only to find this common usage, but firstly to find out about the different aspects and methods every discipline was focussing on, and then to identify the possible overlaps. This process not only showed how time-consuming interdisciplinary work could take, but also how many interdependencies and chances for common projects there are. Firstly, there was a dispute among different perspectives of other disciplines, and secondly, the critical reflection of personal disciplinary perspective on biodiversity, which also was very important.

During the application, nearly every sentence of the workshop description was disputed and revised. After long and fruitful discussions about the main issues we wanted to address in the workshop, we decided to have three panels, an introductory panel, a power relations one and a panel on the communication of biodiversity concept. These are exemplary issues on which the differences and overlaps between different manners of framing biodiversity can be shown. Accordingly we invited several speakers from different countries to dispute these

issues of difference and accordance. Prof. Bas Arts contributed as a keynote speaker in two panels that aimed specific issues, and furthermore, someone who could give us helpful hints for our further interdisciplinary work.

During the presentations and discussions in the workshop, several important points regarding inter- as well as transdisciplinary work on biodiversity became clear. First and perhaps the most important insight of the workshop, ideas about “biodiversity” were too diverse to allow a common ground for fruitful cooperation in and between science, politics, as well as interest groups such as for example farmers. On the scientific level, an example became clear in Panel I. While the presentation in applied natural sciences was concerned with how to stop the loss of species (presentation Kerstin Wydra), the social scientists’ view rather looked at the social and discursive constructions and the limited applicability of the concept biodiversity on the local level (presentation Paul Sillitoe). On the political level, Bas Arts showed in his presentation how, amongst other things, different perceptions and ways of communication in environmental politics in the Netherlands have led to a loss of popularity of the concept of biodiversity. Therefore, as Nikolaus Schareika argued in his introductory speech, the term needs to be precisely defined theoretically and, as long as there is no generally binding definition of it, its usage has to be specified in the respective contexts.

Another aspect that has been discussed during the workshop was how to enhance the success of protecting and using biodiversity on the applied level. To avoid applied biodiversity project failures, a) local perceptions about “biodiversity” and its management should be considered and with it, communication should be enhanced (presentations Isabelle Kunze and Christelle Bakhache), and b) clear economic alternatives should be offered (presentations Sadath Nazmus and Yves Hausser). Furthermore, a methodology for identifying powerful key actors as proposed by Carsten Schusser and a clearer concept of power relations regarding biodiversity (presentations Bas Art and Lukas Giessen) could be helpful. It was also pointed out that small scale farming allowed a better biodiversity management (presentations Paul Sillitoe and Kerstin Wydra).

Last but not least, during the discussions, when we shared our experiences, it became clear that intra- and transdisciplinary projects demand small, engaged groups, and openness for mutual understanding, and a big time investment (see also the presentations of Yves Hausser and Sadath Nazmus).

For further interdisciplinary work on biodiversity, we constituted a working group consisting of the team members and some of our participants. First ideas of future cooperations are already established, as for example participating at IPA conference in 2013 or 2014, submitting a position paper on the subjects discussed in the workshop or a more specific article written by few participants who would like to work together. The first meeting where

more concrete projects will be discussed takes place in November. Until then, we are staying in contact with all the participants to get the main points they took into consideration from the workshop.

As a conclusion, we realised that the workshop was quite successful and showed a huge interest on the topic, and many ways and methods of framing it.

5. ANNEXES

5.1 Program

(DE-) CONSTRUCTING BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Friday, 23.9.2011

8:30-9:00	Participants' arrival
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome address by Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Schareika (Göttingen, Inst. for Social and Cultural Anthropology)

Panel 1: Perspectives on Biodiversity

Moderation: Bianca Volk, Discussant: Dr. Veronika Fuest (Göttingen, Research Development Section)

9:30 – 10:30	Keynote speaker: Prof. Paul Sillitoe (Durham, Department of Anthropology) Anthropological perspectives on biodiversity in the gulf region Speaker I: Prof. Dr. Kerstin Wydra (Göttingen, Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry) The insurance function of agro biodiversity and the importance of monitoring its conservation and use to cope with change
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Speaker II: Nazmus Sadath (Göttingen, Chair for Forest and Nature Conservation Policy) Disputing Biodiversity in an interdisciplinary project
11:30 – 12:15	Panel discussion
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch break

Panel 3: Power Relations, Stakeholders and the Negotiation of Biodiversity

Moderation: Manjola Salla, Discussants: Dr. Katrin Vohland and Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Schareika

13:30 – 14:30	Keynote speaker: Prof. Dr. Bas Arts (Wageningen, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy) Five faces of Power in Biodiversity Politics. Speaker I: Isabelle Kunze MSocSc. (Leibniz University Hannover, Dept. for Environmental Planning) Who cares? Biodiversity in Agriculture
14:30 – 15:00	Poster presentation and coffee break
15:00 – 16:00	Speaker II: Dr. Yves Hausser (Geneva, Nature Management) Community based wildlife management in Africa: a comparison of approaches through case studies analysis from Central African Republic, Tanzania and Benin Speaker III: Carsten Schusser (Göttingen, Chair of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy) Actors' Power and Interests as the Key for Negotiations
16:15 – 17:00	Panel discussion
18:30	Dinner

Saturday, 24.9.2011

Panel 2: Communicating Biodiversity

Moderation: Sascha Kessler, Discussant: Nazmus Sadath

9:00 – 10:00	Keynote speaker: Prof. Dr. Bas Arts (Wageningen, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy) How biodiversity has become an 'endangered concept' in Dutch nature policy? Speaker I: Christelle Bakhache Durrell's participatory ecological monitoring in Madagascar : governance and conservation through knowledge production Training, mobilization, funds: an empowering combination for NGOs?
10:00 – 10:30	Poster presentation, coffee break
10:30 – 11:30	Speaker II: Dr. Ines Bruchmann (Flensburg, Dept. of Biology and Education) The power of Endemicity in Species Conservation Speaker III: Dr. Lukas Giessen (Göttingen, Chair of Forest- and Nature Conservation Policy) Framing as interest-driven exercise: the competing attempts of framing rural development policy
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:30	Panel discussion
12:30 – 13:00	Workshop closure speech
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:00	Outlook (potential future cooperation and collaboration)

5.2 List of participants

(DE-) CONSTRUCTING BIODIVERSITY
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT LIST
 Date: 23rd September 2011

Name	University / Institution
Alejandro Del Pozo	University of Talca
Anne Fidels Itubo	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Bianca Volk	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Carsten Schusser	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Christelle Bakhache	Sciences Po, Paris
Dr. Katrin Vohland	Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
Dr. Petra Maass	
Dr. Veronika Fuest	Georg-August-University, Göttingen
Dr. Wolfgang Koppe	
Isabelle Kunze	Leibniz University of Hannover
Jacqueline Hogmani	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Jan Friedrich	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Jutta Gilles	
Katrin Reuter	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Linda Szűcs	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Lukas Giessen PhD	Georg- August University
Manjola Salla	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Manuela Armenat	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Munir Hoffman	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Nazmus Sadath	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Nils Hilliges	
Peter Demmel	
Prof Paul Sillitoe, Sc.D., F.B.A.	Durham University, Durham, UK
Prof. Dr. B.J.M. (Bas) Arts	Wageningen University and Research Centre ,The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Kerstin Wydra	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Schareika	Georg-August-University, Göttingen
Prof. Yves Hausser	Switzerland
Robert Gajcevic	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Sascha Kessler	Georg- August University, Göttingen
Thomas P. Farah	
Tobias Staufenberg	Hochschule Bremen
Valerie Liebs	University of Mainz
Yves Zinngrebe	Georg- August University, Göttingen