



Brazil/Canada Workshop, May 2-3, 2012

Capacity development toward co-
management of coastal resources

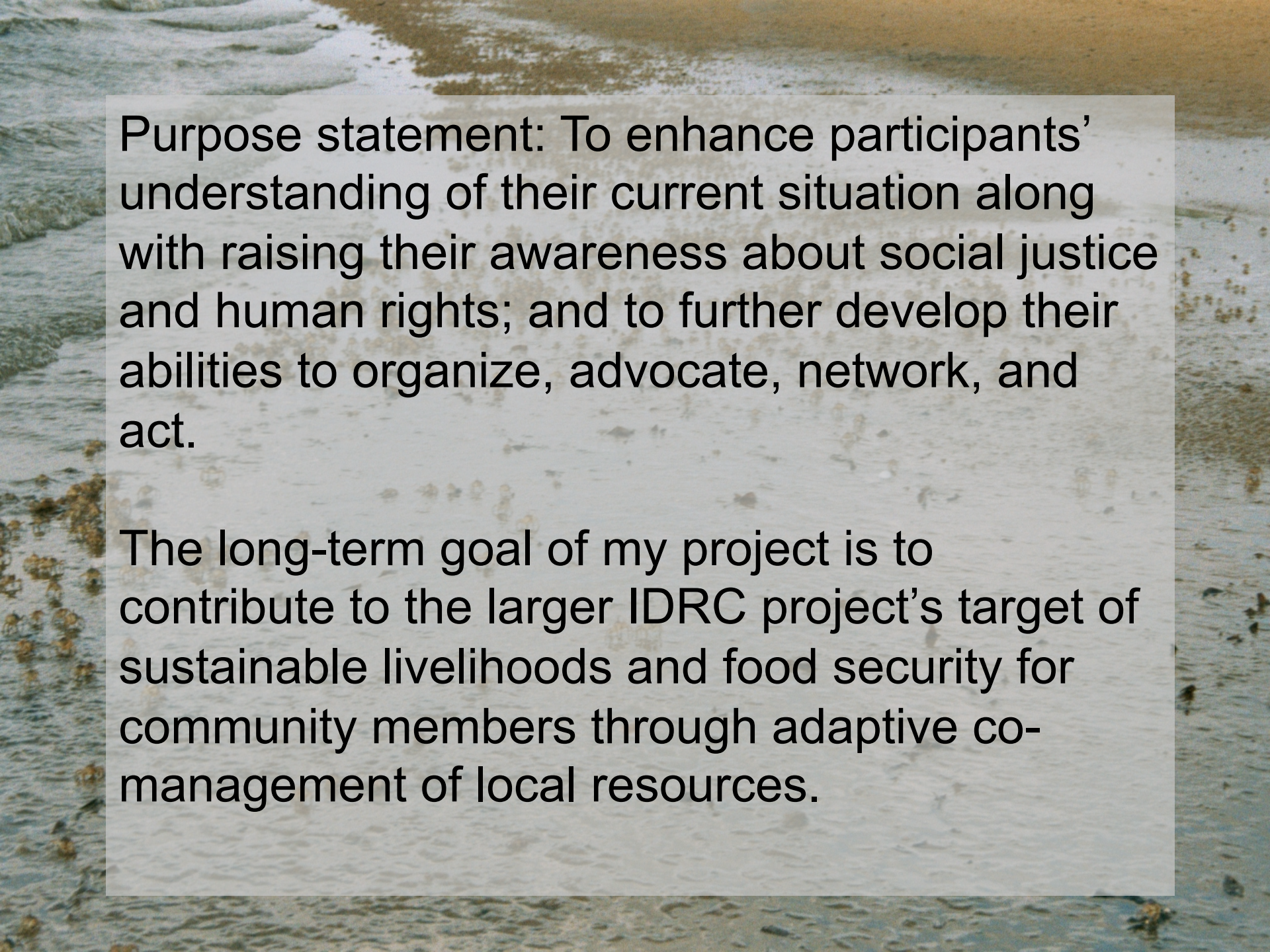
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Research Outline

Capacity-development in Paraty area communities toward inclusive community-based management and co-management of coastal resources -- fisheries, small-scale agriculture and forestry, and protected areas.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach with some seaweed and small rocks. The water is shallow and clear, with gentle waves lapping at the shore. The sky is not visible, but the overall scene is bright and natural.

Purpose statement: To enhance participants' understanding of their current situation along with raising their awareness about social justice and human rights; and to further develop their abilities to organize, advocate, network, and act.

The long-term goal of my project is to contribute to the larger IDRC project's target of sustainable livelihoods and food security for community members through adaptive co-management of local resources.

Objectives

- 1) Identify current community strengths and capabilities related to participatory management, power structures, and decision-making processes.
 - Develop an understanding of existing capacities and adaptations to changes due to endogenous and exogenous forces; for example, the establishment of protected areas, increasing tourism and depletion of fishing stocks.

Objectives

- 2) Work with local community members, including women and people with disabilities, to identify their priorities and challenges, and develop a strategy to increase capacity for their participation in management.
 - Facilitate a process of inclusive capacity development using participatory methodologies, building on existing capacities and grounded in the realities of participants.

Objectives

- 3) Support emerging leaders to develop a co-management plan to be presented to the relevant government departments.
 - Use training-of-trainers and/or community mobilizers model to allow for targeted capacity development and in-depth community participation.
 - Link participants to other communities in Brazil undertaking CBNRM/Co-M.

Methods

Participatory, Interactive, Adaptive Research Approach

1. Participant Observation
2. Interactive workshops
3. Key informant interviews and training sessions
4. Training-of-trainers and/or community mobilizers
5. Learning from other communities/linking to other communities in Brazil
6. Institutional mapping
7. Document review

Approach/Theory 1

Human Development and Capability Approach (HDCA)

The HDCA is not considered to be a fully developed theory, but can be used as a “framework of thought for the evaluation of individual advantage and social arrangements” (Robeyns, 2003:8). This will provide a framework for a comprehensive research project with a focus on individual choices and well-being and on the personal, social and environmental factors that impact on the well-being of both individuals and groups.

Robeyns, I. (2003). *The Capability Approach: An Interdisciplinary Introduction*. Available: <http://www.capabilityapproach.com/pubs/323CAtraining20031209.pdf>

Approach/Theory 2

Human Development and Capability Approach

HDCA is relevant because:

- It is largely about other ways of approaching and measuring development that aren't focused on economics.
- It signals that policy decisions would be based on questions like “would this improve quality of life” rather than “would this lead to economic growth”.
- It puts people first.

(Chambers, R. (1983). *Rural Development: Putting the Last First*. London, UK: Longman)

Significance of the Work - Themes/Theory Areas

1. Community-Based Management/Co-Management

The theory is essentially that local people are the best equipped to manage local resources – particularly those on which they depend.

2. Capacity Development

There is a lack of clear theory in this area, but my work will be based on the methods of the educator Paulo Freire and the HDCA.

3. Resilience

Concepts of community resilience can include both social-ecological resilience and psychological/developmental resilience. Both are relevant to this work and will help me build on community strengths. Developing capacity for community participation is closely related to keeping options open and increasing flexibility.

Obrigada!

