Knowledge and Integration for Sustainable Development: Eastern and Southern Africa Partnership Programme

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Overview
Capitalising on ESAPP (1999–2013)

- Wide-ranging expertise in sustainability-oriented research in local and regional contexts in Africa
- Insights and lessons learnt regarding institutional development and conceptual, thematic, and practical achievements
- Reflection on the sustainability concept underpinning CDE’s approach, mission, and goals in its long-term North-South research and development collaboration.

Approaches and Results

- An active adaptive programme approach provides stability and flexibility in the navigation of partner interaction and research
- A dual structure approach intertwines capacity development and basic research with South-driven research and implementation
- A TD research approach brings together partners in contextualised knowledge generation and learning processes

Organisation of Interdisciplinary Collaborations

- Lean, self-reflexive M&E system as a joint navigation instrument
- Sequence and iteration of basic research, capacity building, project implementation, and reflexion
- Interlink institutional and human capacity building with research
- Establish regional centres as steward for sustainability needs and regional demand
- Focus on major themes (SLM/SRD) and regional responsibility
- Build on existing alliances between South partners and networks

Discussion

ESAPP’s strategic goal: ‘knowledge societies’ capable of addressing SD needs and counterbalancing growing socio-economic disparities and the enduring dominance of Northern science. ESAPP invests in institutional and human capacity building (CB) for all partners and stakeholders involved, and in the democratisation of production of and access to knowledge (TD). This has proved a means to support equal power and decision-making structures, and a more South-determined development within and beyond the programme.

References