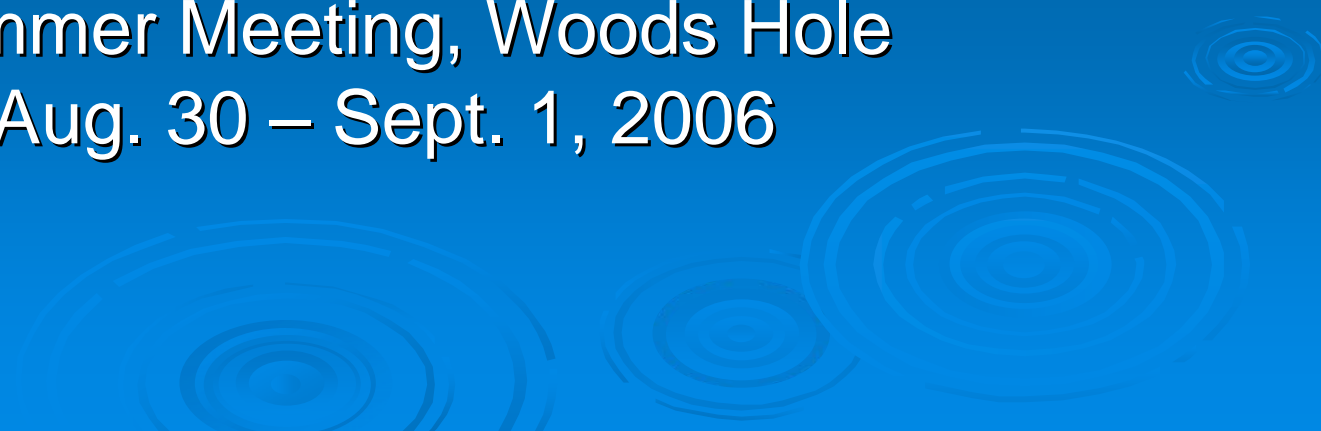


Enhancing the Effectiveness of Sustainability Partnerships

Roundtable on Science and
Technology for Sustainability
Summer Meeting, Woods Hole
Aug. 30 – Sept. 1, 2006

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several sets of concentric, light blue circles that resemble ripples in water, creating a decorative pattern.

Origins of Summer Meeting

- Earlier discussions asserted and documented (in the Green Book) that public-private partnerships can be important in linking knowledge to action – mobilizing S&T in overcoming barriers to sustainable environmental and economic problems
- Are any kinds of PPPs more effective than others? What do we know to be the characteristics of successful partnerships?

At this Meeting....

- Confirming ideas emerging from the (fairly thin) analytical literature and previous discussions
- Exploring whether there is something special about partnerships (PPPs) in the sustainability domain
- Using case studies to stimulate reflection

Some Findings

- Some of the “Rules for Good PPPs” confirmed – and yes, do apply in sustainability domain – In addition to the Big Six
- Goals, targets, indicators
 - Decision to partner must be made strategically: needs strongly felt by both/all partners; needs are medium to long-term; action in relatively peaceful places where property rights (esp IP?) are stable
 - PPP goals are explicit – for partnership as whole and for partners, some taking into account “local” goals when partners are not
 - Progress is transparently measured and reported
 - Financing and other resources
- Partners’ needs explicitly defined
 - Sustainable financial plan – with flexibility, but accountable
- Capacity for planning and management
 - All partners need to contribute – no passive partners
 - Specific capacity needs assessed and provided for
 - Weak and distant coupling of partners might work best
 - Brokers might be needed

More Depth on a Few Issues

- Identifying different “classes” of PPPs might be helpful
- Looking at a couple of interests in more depth:
 - PPPs utility in authorizing collaboration on cross-sectoral issues, validating the expenditure of resources on the issues, validating the science/soundness of ideas
 - Taking a broader view of resource mobilization in PPPs – IP as well as \$\$

THINGS WE COULD DO

➤ OPTION A

- Assertion: most efforts involve partnerships
- Then, why, what makes some effective or not – some examples, little analysis

➤ OPTION B

- Just enough ideas, not only examples, but also template for in-depth analysis with a more limited scope – commissioned- the issue of public funding continuity
- Symposium to follow
- Come out with classic NRC symposium report with discussant remarks plus synthesis from Task Force
- This would test the conclusions of this workshop with relatively clear case studies, some sort of policy piece.

➤ OPTION C – NRC could do original work. Then book.

Proposal

- Option B
- Exactly which case studies?
- Who should be commissioned to do it?
- Timeframe process to align with WSSD + 5 (Brundtland + 20)
 - Partnerships were core idea in WSSD
 - US political changes might lead to baby being thrown out with bathwater
 - Opportunity to engage broader community