### **ACTION POINT / Unit 11: Restoration Networks**

EMG Training of Trainers, July-September 2024

Got questions? Reach out: OasisToT@outlook.com



#### Background:

Networking and collaboration play a vital role in environmental management efforts. Horizontal networks among EMGs foster knowledge sharing, while vertical networks with policymakers enable broader advocacy and support. The importance of networking lies in its ability to create a collective impact, encourage resource sharing, and drive environmental policy advocacy. Forming networks involves identifying common interests, establishing communication channels, and promoting the sharing of resources to address shared challenges. Effective communication is essential for sustaining these efforts, whether through in-person meetings, mobile phones, or appointing communication leaders. Building trust within networks is also crucial, and potential conflicts are addressed through role-playing activities focused on conflict resolution. To ensure long-term success, networks must be monitored for progress, with opportunities to share success stories and adapt to emerging challenges. Regular feedback and evaluation from participants further enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives, allowing for continuous improvement.



#### Your task:

Plan the first steps of how your group wants to aproach network building.



**Duration:** 2-3 hours



those network building goals.

Implementation steps: all the boxes should be checked by the end of the exercise!

**Purpose of the task:** Outline realistic goals and figure out which tools to use to reach



#### Work with the EMGs

Ia	en	ui.	y c	,on	ım	on	m	ler	es	ιs

- □ Organise a meeting with your EMG group and identify shared challenges or goals related to environmental management.
- □ Brainstorm which other EMGs, stakeholders, or policymakers could be valuable partners in addressing these challenges.
- □ Discuss potential areas of collaboration such as knowledge sharing, resource pooling, or joint advocacy efforts and similar.
- Talk about if the network should focus on horizontal (between EMGs) or vertical (with policymakers or higher-level organizations) connections—or both. Explain why both are important to the EMGs, but talk to them about which they want to prioritize in the first steps.

# Set Up Communication Channels for Horizontal Networks

- □ Choose appropriate tools for maintaining communication within the network (e.g., inperson meetings, mobile communication, messaging platforms). Ask the EMG members what form of communication they use on the daily and what they could use for this purpose.
- Appoint a communication leader or point of contact to ensure messages are shared efficiently.

□ Discuss frequency of communication and how to document progress or ideas (for

example, setting up a monthly meeting with a fixed time, like every last Thursday after asr, the different EMGs will have a short catch up).

Set Up Communication Channels for Vertical Networks

## □ In previous Action Point 2 you assigned roles - Communication officer or policy

- officer could be now chosen also as a contact point or representatives in the the context of policy makers and othe relevant institutions ('communication leader' in Hassan's presentation.
- □ Identify events, meetings and other venues that EMG representative should be present at and attend if that is possible.
- Agree on how the representative will report to the EMG and to the community and which messages he or she will be spreading.

# Monitoring, evaluation and feedback □ In the beginning, you might need to help EMG members to get the communication

mobile networks.

- going. This might include spreading messages in their name, always referring them as a contact point, etc. Make sure to then give over this responsibility to the chosen communication leader.

  □ Periodically check in on progress through communication leaders.
- □ Encourage continuous collaboration by addressing new issues as they arise (e.g.,
- organizing a meeting when new environmental challenges come up).

  □Provide opportunities for groups to share success stories, either in person or through
- □ Ask EMGs to reflect on how they will keep their networks alive. What challenges might they face, and how can they overcome them?



General recommendations for meetings can be found in <u>Unit 2.</u>

□ The usual gear needed for meetings (papers, pens, other visual tools, see suggestions

**Materials needed** (these are suggestions; not all might be needed!):

for working with illiterate communities on the website <u>here</u> )	
□	

Ш \_\_\_\_\_\_\_