

## Introduction

While Multi-stakeholder Processes (MSPs) are increasingly seen as a critical way of dealing with complex societal problems such as climate change, or reducing pollution levels, they are not a 'silver bullet'. Accordingly, it is increasingly recognized that learning alliances, and hence the collaboration between multiple actors (such as research and education institutes, NGOs, governments, private sector and community based organisations), contribute highly to improved understanding of the complex issues that Wageningen UR addresses.

Much remains to be understood about the role and effectiveness of MSPs in a wider context of politics, governance and societal change. Furthermore, the discourse on how multiple actors learn through joint analysis and collaboration is still taking shape. It is a great challenge to understand how social learning and learning alliances function as tools for development.

Therefore, Wageningen UR – Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) organizes a one-day seminar which addresses the crucial questions cited below:

- 1) What is the rationale for the use of learning alliances as conceptual and practical approach in multi stakeholder processes?
- 2) What are theoretical assumptions and reflections made by influential academics in these domains?
- 3) What is the relation between learning alliances and multi-stakeholder processes?
- 4) What are critical success factors for learning alliances in multi-stakeholder settings?

This seminar is part of the three week international course 'Facilitating Multi-Stakeholder Processes and Social Learning', attended by 25 participants from all over the world. They will facilitate and actively take part in the seminar.

The purpose of this seminar is to reflect on and share experiences with learning alliances in multi-stakeholder settings.

What: 1-day seminar

When: September 16, 2010

Where: Hof van Wageningen, Kleine Veerzaal

For whom: Everyone interested in learning alliances in multi-stakeholder settings

## Programme\*:

The programme consists of the following elements:

**09.00 – 09.30 Coffee/Tea & registration**

**09.30 – 12.30 Morning session:  
Welcome and introduction**

## Sharing of case studies on learning alliances

Case 1: Prolinnova (ETC)

Case 2: Global Platform on Forest Landscape Restoration (CDI - WUR)

Case 3: Wash alliance (IRC, invited)

## Reflection on cases with Professor Arjen Wals

**13.30 – 15.30 Afternoon sessions:**

### Parallel workshops

WS 1: How private sector and NGOs complement each other in learning alliances (Partnership Resource Centre, invited)

WS 2: The role of knowledge institutes in learning alliances (Professor Arjen Wals)

WS 3: The role of e-learning 2.0 in learning alliances (Joitske Hulsebosch)

WS 4: How to monitor and evaluate learning alliances? (Agri-Profocus, Roel Snelder)

**15.30 – 16.30 Exchange key findings of the workshops (market place), with coffee/tea**

**16.30 – 17.00 Conclusions**

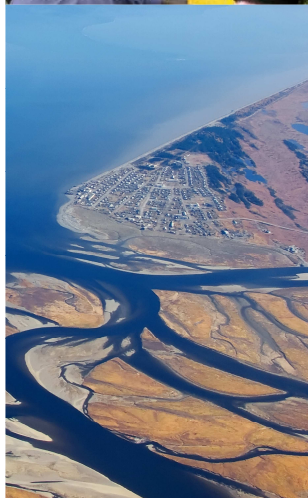
## More information and subscription

For more information about this seminar, we kindly ask you to send an email to Nina de Roo ([nina.deroo@wur.nl](mailto:nina.deroo@wur.nl)) or Karèn Verhoosel ([karen.verhoosel@wur.nl](mailto:karen.verhoosel@wur.nl)).

Would you like to participate? Please fill in the attached application form and return it to Ingrid Poolman before 6 September. (E-mail: [ingrid.poolman@wur.nl](mailto:ingrid.poolman@wur.nl))

## Detailed programme\*

On the next page you will find a more detailed description of the programme.





### Morning programme: Case studies

In the morning sessions 3 case studies on learning alliances will be presented. All 3 cases are active learning alliances in multi-stakeholder settings. The presenters share their own work experiences, their challenges and successes.

#### Case 1: Prolinnova (ETC)

ETC foundation will present the case of Prolinnova, a global learning network that promotes rural innovation. For more information on Prolinnova or ETC we refer to <http://www.prolinnova.net>.

#### Case 2: Global Platform on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) (CDI-WUR)

Cora van Oosten will present a learning network on forest landscape restoration that has been quite successful in involving a wide international network of practitioners in sharing thoughts and experiences on an on-line platform, see: <http://forestlandscaperestoration.ning.com>

#### Case 3: Wash Alliance (invited: IRC)

IRC is involved in several learning alliances (among others: Empower and WASH alliance). Ewen Leborgne will describe his experiences in establishing international learning alliances. For more information: <http://www.irc.nl/page/14957>

### Morning session:

#### Reflection by Professor Arjen Wals

In the end of this morning session Professor Arjen Wals will reflect on the presented case studies. Arjen Wals is a Professor of Social Learning and Sustainable Development at Wageningen UR. His research focuses on learning processes that contribute to a more sustainable world. He will focus on the link between these 3 presented practical examples with the current academic discourse.

### Afternoon: Workshops in smaller groups

The afternoon is characterized by interactive sessions in which participants from different professions and backgrounds are stimulated to share their experiences. At the end of each workshop, some lessons will be drawn and recommendations for future work will be made.

#### WS 1: How the private sector and NGOs complement each other in learning alliances (invited: Partnerships Resource Centre)

The Partnerships Resource Centre (PRC) is an open centre where academics, practitioners and students

Create, retrieve and share knowledge on cross sector partnerships for sustainable development. PRC sees a special role for the private sector in these partnerships. In this workshop the complementarities in roles of the private and civil sector will be analyzed. The session will build on the experiences of PRC and stories brought by participants. For more information on PRC, see: [www.erim.eur.nl/ERIM/Research/Centres/SCOPE/Partnerships\\_Resource\\_Centre](http://www.erim.eur.nl/ERIM/Research/Centres/SCOPE/Partnerships_Resource_Centre)

#### WS 2: The role of knowledge institutes in learning alliances (Professor Arjen Wals)

In this workshop we will elaborate on the specific role of knowledge institutes in learning alliances. *What is their added value? What is their role in a social learning process?* Participants are encouraged to share their experiences with knowledge institutes in learning alliances.

#### WS 3: The role of e-learning in learning alliances (invited: Joitske Hulsebosch)

Information can nowadays easily be shared among people and organisations living in different continents. A whole range of new techniques and tools is developed that can be used for online sharing of information. In this workshop, participants will jointly assess the advantages and disadvantages of e-learning when multiple actors want to learn together around a specific topic.

Joitske Hulsebosch is an independent consultant in the field of knowledge management for development. For more information about her work, see: [www.joitskehulsebosch.nl](http://www.joitskehulsebosch.nl) or <http://joitskehulsebosch.blogspot.com>

#### WS 4: How to monitor and evaluate learning alliances? (Agri-Profocus, Roel Snelder)

*How to monitor the impact or progress of learning alliances? How to evaluate the success of such alliances? To what extent is it possible to effectively monitor learning in alliances? What could be possible indicators?* These are some of the questions that Roel Snelder will address in this workshop. He will base his statements on the recently developed M&E tool that Agri-Profocus (APF) developed to assess its own network.

For more information about the APF we refer to <http://www.agri-profocus.nl/>.

*\*If necessary the programme will be changed.*

