CiVi.net – the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) and their networks in community based environmental management

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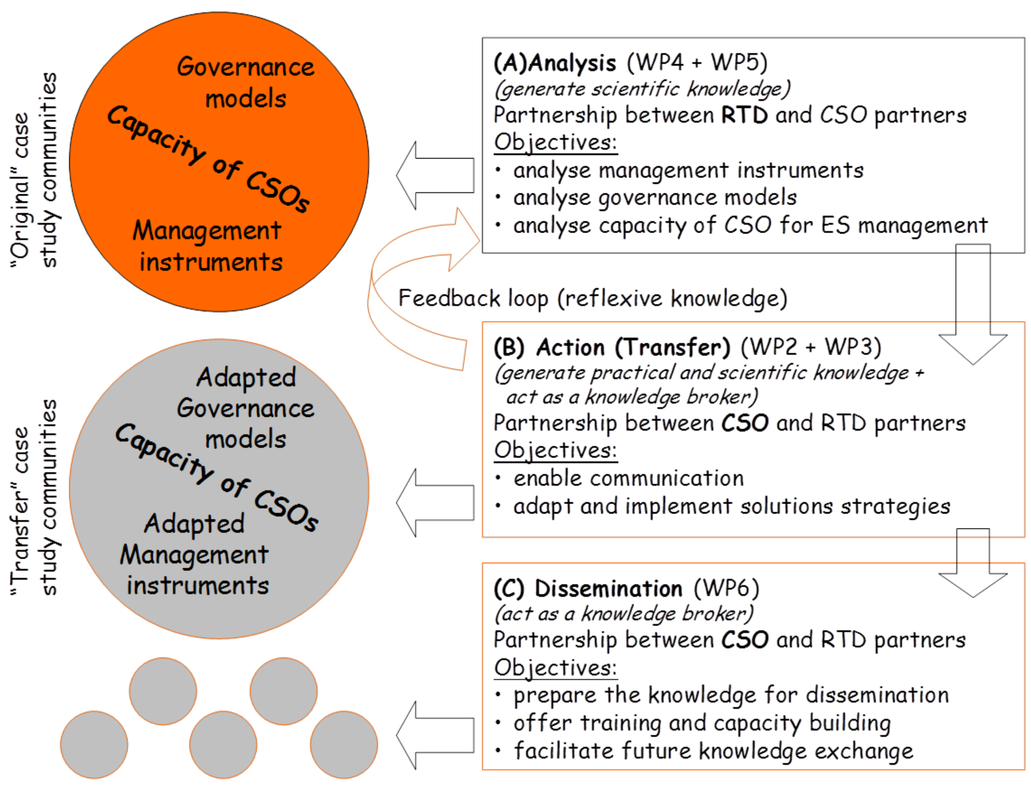
Research concept

The CiVi.net project focuses on use and management of natural resources and its services, collectively called Ecosystem Services (ES). The CiVi.net project aims to analyze (A), transfer (B) and disseminate (C) successful and sustainable community based solutions with regard to ES ecosystem service management. Geographical context of this project is Latin America, i.e. including regions in Brazil and Costa Rica. CiVi.net is an European research project financed under FP7.

The research concept is accordingly structured in three parts:



Main research focus is on institutional settings in terms of original rules and related governance models which help to prevent and resolve tensions arising from the necessary new repartition and use of natural resources. The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) within these governance models is thereby at the core of the research.

Case study approach

CiVi.net takes an **action research** and **case study approach**. The following successful solutions are analyzed:

- Participatory approaches and environmental advocacy in wetland protection, **Península de Osa, Puntarenas, Costa Rica**
- Cooperation between the community of Marujá and the Park administration in implementing and monitoring the rule of the **Ilha do Cardoso State Park, São Paulo, Brazil**
- Application of Social Carbon Standard in Ceramic Industries in **Tocantins, Brazil**
- Intensifying the use of pasture land with Voisin System, Santa Rosa de Lima, **Santa Catarina, Brazil**

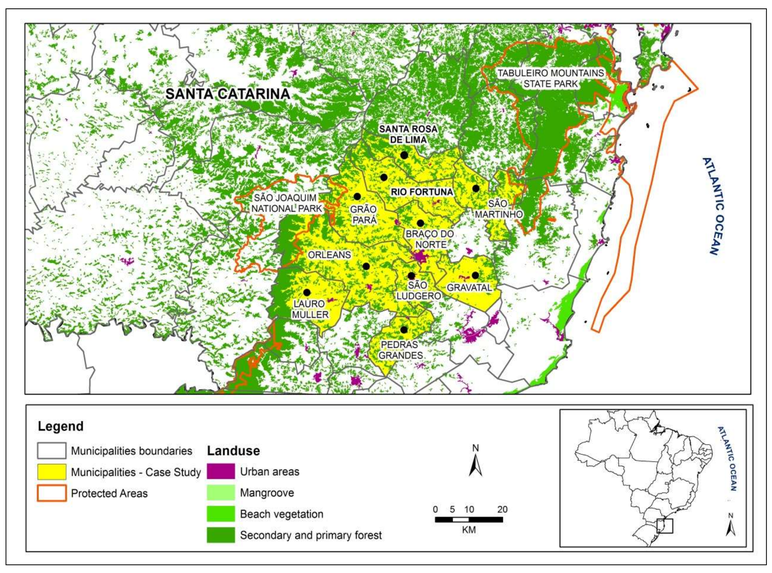
Besides the transfer of these solutions from "original" case study communities to "transfer" case study communities facing similar problems, other final outputs will be a **manual to assist practitioners and scientists on how to design and manage the knowledge transfer**, as be an **innovative web-based data portal for providing and trading knowledge**.

Project Partners:

- ZALF - Leibniz- Center for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany
- EI – Ecológica Institute, Brazil
- ETH - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Switzerland
- FSD - Foundation for Sustainable Development, Netherlands
- IDC – Org. for International Dialogue and Conflict Management, Austria
- NEO - Neotrópica Foundation, Costa Rica
- FUNDAG -Foundation for Agricultural Development, Brazil

First results from Santa Catarina, Brazil

The Encostas da Serra Geral is located in the State of Santa Catarina. It has important remnants of Atlantic Forest *stricto sensus* and it is located in a transition between this phytophisionomy and the Araucaria Forest. Contamination by pesticides due to the tobacco industry, expansion of pine trees monoculture and the expansion of pasture at the small properties are threatening the forested areas and the maintenance of ES (ecosystem services) associated with its conservation at the landscape scale.



Map of Encostas da Serra Geral region, Santa Catarina.

The CiVi.net project will help to extend the traditional Voisin System to a silvospastoral form which uses natives species based on the jussara palm tree (*Euterpe edulis*) with the aim to shade pasture areas increasing animal welfare, profitability and conservation of native species, compensate disadvantages of the traditional Voisin and to help recuperate parts of the Atlantic rain forest.

In a workshop, all the stakeholders including farmers technicians from three local dairy houses, technicians from the regional and local EPAGRI (state rural agency), representatives from CSO organizations like Acolhida da Colônia and AGRECO, had the opportunity to discuss and show their opinion on the project.

VOISIN SILVOPASTORAL WITH NATIVE SPECIES	
Strengths	**Weaknesses**
• Shadow • Better use of resources • Production diversification • Animal welfare • Biodiversity • Thermal comfort • Extra profit • Ecosystem restauration • Property adecuation to environmental issues • Profit increase due to the possible use of trees in permanent preservation areas	• Costs for its implementation • Lack of shadow in the beginning • Increase of labor • Decrease of pasture areas within the paddocks • Lack of compensation for the environmental services provided • Plants acquisition • Expensive plants due to the size requirements to implementation • Labor and initital investments

Participants were content that the region is a case study being used as an example. Next activities will be to chose a transfer region and discuss strategies for the future transfer.

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