



Happy Village

Exploring the Benefits of Integrated Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation

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Objective: Through this activity participants will discover the importance of working collaboratively to develop integrated adaptation options that consider the vulnerabilities of human communities, species and ecosystems and therefore avoid potentially maladaptive activities.

Note: Happy Village is a fun activity but can be difficult to facilitate if you are not familiar with the game. If you have not played Happy Village before, be sure to practice facilitating the activity with friends and colleagues before you use it for training purposes.

Background: In Happy Village participants are divided into 8 stakeholder groups (A-H), each with a set of unique issues they face in Happy Village. Stakeholder groups discuss and choose the 3-4 adaptation options they believe will best address these issues. Participants are then assigned new mixed groups where each of the 8 stakeholder groups is represented by at least one person. Participants in mixed groups then discuss the issues facing their respective stakeholder groups and selected adaptation options. The activity is designed so that adaptation options adopted to solve each set of issues are in conflict with options developed to solve problems faced by other stakeholder groups. Participants learn that because they were focused on solving a single set of issues facing a single stakeholder group, no group was able to develop a truly suitable solution. There are two exercises described below. Exercise 1 allows participants to discover conflicts. Exercise 2 allows participants to work collaboratively in mixed groups to develop adaptation options that will optimize benefits for everyone. Exercise 2 is optional and will require additional time.

Time required: Minimum of 60 minutes for exercise 1 only. A period of 75-90 minutes will allow for richer discussion and debriefing. Exercise 2 will require an addition 30-45 minutes.

What you will need

- PowerPoint presentation and projector to show the map of Happy Village for the exercise set up
- Color copies of the 8 stakeholder group scenarios (A-H) printed double-sided. Each person receives their own copy of one scenario. Note there are two versions of scenarios – Happy Village Classic and Happy Village Lite. Choose one or the other based on your needs. See below “Choosing a Happy Village version” below.

- One large copy of the map for each table (recommended)
- Plenty of small (SIZE) colored sticky note pads (optional)
- 2 sets of “Happy Village Cards”
- Square or round tables that can accommodate 6-10 people each for group work.
- Minimum number of participants: 16. This exercise works well in large groups. Note that participants must be literate for this activity to be effective.

Preparation

Choosing a Happy Village version

There are two versions of the Happy Village scenarios – Happy Village Classic and Happy Village Lite. You will need to choose one or the other depending on your needs. Both sets of scenarios are basically the same but the exercises differ slightly. A comparison of both versions is presented below.

Happy Village Lite	Happy Village Classic
Each stakeholder group has just 3 options to discuss.	Each stakeholder group may have 3 or 4 options to discuss.
Placement of adaptation options is mapped on the scenario sheets. There is no flexibility in where to place options.	Participants have some flexibility in determining where they can place their chosen adaptation options.
Scenario sheets do not include a map of Happy Village. Each group will need a large copy of the Happy Village map to facilitate discussion.	Happy Village maps are included in the scenario sheets. The use of a large copy of the Happy Village map at each table is recommended but not necessary.
Discussions may be quicker but less rich than when using Happy Village Classic.	Discussions may be longer and more confusing but richer than when using Happy Village Lite.
Available in English only (as of June 2015).	Available in multiple languages. Some translations may vary slightly from current English version.
Recommended if the activity is conducted in English with non-native English speakers or when there are time constraints for the activity.	Recommended for use when activity is conducted in the native language of the participants and when there is ample time for discussion and debriefing.

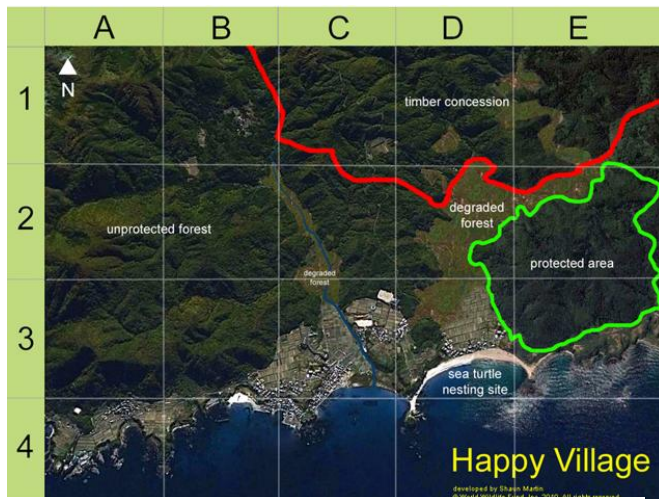
Dividing the groups: In the first stage of Exercise 1, there are 8 stakeholder groups (A-H), each with its own scenario working at a separate table. Divide your participants into 8 roughly equal sized groups. The easiest way to do this is to have participants “count off” starting with “A”, proceeding through “H” and then back to “A” and so on. Please refer to the “Happy Village Table Assignments” document for guidance on how to assign participants to shareholder groups.

EXERCISE 1: Exploring adaptation options and identifying conflicts

Stage 1: Choosing adaptation options

Begin the exercise by using the Happy Village PowerPoint presentation to inform the entire audience about the basic features of Happy Village. Using the map on the second slide, point out homes, vegetable plots, the river, sea turtle nesting site, protected area, degraded forest areas, the timber concession and the unprotected forest. *About 5 minutes.*

Keep the Happy Village map projected on the screen throughout the entire exercise so participants can refer to it in their discussions.



Happy Village map

Break the participants into 8 stakeholder groups (groups A-H) with approximately equal numbers of members. Each stakeholder group is seated at separate tables. Inform the participants that they will receive a scenario that describes observed climate-related impacts and several adaptation options to consider. Hand out one of the 8 scenarios and a large printed Happy Village map to each group. Every person at each table should have the same scenario. At this point participants do not know that each group has received a different scenario with different adaptation options.

Instructions for this part of the exercise are written on each scenario handout. Briefly review these with the participants.

- Discuss each adaptation option. Determine which options you would choose to pursue. Be sure to record the reasons why you choose these options on the reverse side of this paper since you will need this for the next part of the exercise.
- You may select as many options as you want so long as you believe they are good ideas (ie they are feasible, are not mutually exclusive, will not create other problems, etc.)

- You must come to consensus in your group on which options to select.
- You may not create new options.
- You have about 15 minutes to finish this task.

Stage 2: Comparing options and identifying conflicts

After each group has discussed and selected their preferred adaptation options, mix participants into new groups so that each of the 8 scenarios is represented at each table. Once participants have been mixed into new groups, confirm that all 8 scenarios (A-H) are represented at each table. At this time you may announce that each stakeholder group had a different scenario and a different problem to solve, or you may allow the participants to discover this for themselves through the discussion. Participants representing each of 8 stakeholder groups present their scenarios and selected adaptation options to the others at their table in about 2-3 minutes. Many times participants will describe options they do not choose, which is not necessary and not recommended. Each table then identifies which options are in conflict and which are mutually beneficial. You may want to walk around to each of the tables to make that groups are moving quickly through each of the scenarios.

If you have printed out large maps of Happy Village for each table and have small sticky notes, you can have participants write their selected options on a sticky note and place it in each square on the map grid (A1, C2, E3, etc.) where activity for that option will take place. For example, one group may choose to build a corridor that will span 3 *quadrants*. The participant representing that group should write “corridor” on 3 sticky notes and place those notes in the appropriate squares. This method allows participants to easily visualize the conflicts that their chosen options have created with other those selected by other stakeholder groups.

If you have a participant or another trainer or facilitator who has played Happy Village before, it can help speed up the activity if that person sits the table and places the sticky notes on the map and asks questions of the participants to ensure that all relevant *quadrants* are covered with a stick note. For example, “You want to build a corridor. Where will you put the corridor? Is this the only *quadrant*? Are there others?” This table facilitator can also point out conflicts to the participants to stimulate their thinking if this does not happen naturally. For example, “You want to log this area where the other group wants to build a corridor. Is that going to work?”

Some groups may finish earlier than others. If this happens, give them instructions to begin Exercise 2 below while they are waiting for other groups to complete this exercise.

About 20-30 minutes

Stage 3: Debriefing

You can now ask each of the 8 stakeholder groups from stage 1 to state their chosen option, and if possible mark the Happy Village map on the PowerPoint screen to visually show the conflicts among the various groups. To do this, exit the slide show mode of the PowerPoint presentation. All possible options that stakeholders may have chosen are to the sides of the map. As stakeholder groups state which options they selected and where they placed them, drop and drag the option labels to the appropriate squares on the map grid.



At the end of the activity, you may wish to save the PowerPoint presentation with a new file name to identify it with the training. Collected over time, these maps can be useful to study correlations between group characteristics (conservationists, development professionals, private sector, government, etc.) and selected options. *About 10 minutes.*

Debriefing is an important to this activity. You can use your own debriefing questions or use those suggested below.

1. What lessons can be drawn from this exercise?
2. Were good adaptation options for one stakeholder group maladaptive for others? Give examples.
3. What can be done to minimize conflicting "solutions?"
4. Do you think your professional background (as a conservationist, development professional, etc.) caused bias in your selection of adaptation options?
5. Can anyone share a similar experience from their own work or another situation you know of where lack of collaboration led to conflicts or solutions that were in conflict with one another?

If there is ample time, after the debriefing or after a break, ask while participants are still seated in their mixed groups to develop with a set of adaptation options that best meet the needs for each of the 8 stakeholder groups. They could be could options that they were given to consider earlier or entirely new ones they devise themselves. If you used printed maps and colored sticky notes, participants should remove the sticky notes from their map and use new sticky to notes to write new options and place them on the map to help participants visualize the solutions and their location of activities.

About 30 minutes.

A photograph of two men standing indoors. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a name tag that says "NEMO". The man on the right is wearing sunglasses on his head and is pointing upwards with his right hand. They are both holding a large map of "Happy Village" which is a grid with letters A-E and numbers 1-4. The map shows various buildings and a river. Both men are wearing red shirts with a logo on the pocket.

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