

Network definition

““Knowledge networks” are networks that aim to

- *share information* and *create new knowledge*
- *strengthen research & communication capacity* among members, and
- *identify and implement strategies* to engage decision-makers more directly, *linking to appropriate processes in the areas of policy and practice.*”

(IISD definition 2001)



The Danish Knowledge & Research Networks in Brief

- **Background**

- Formed in 1997- 2006
- Covers environment, agriculture and governance (DDRN), water (DWF) and Health (Enreca Health)
- Danida funded

- **Goal**

- Addressing the needs and problems in dev countries by promoting the use of research & knowledge in dev, and the integration of research based knowledge and dev practices



The Danish Knowledge & Research Networks in Brief (2)

- **The networks operate to:**

- Promote the production, dissemination and exchange of knowledge between R&D
- Promote interaction and research collaboration
 - With colleagues in the South
 - Across institutions and groups



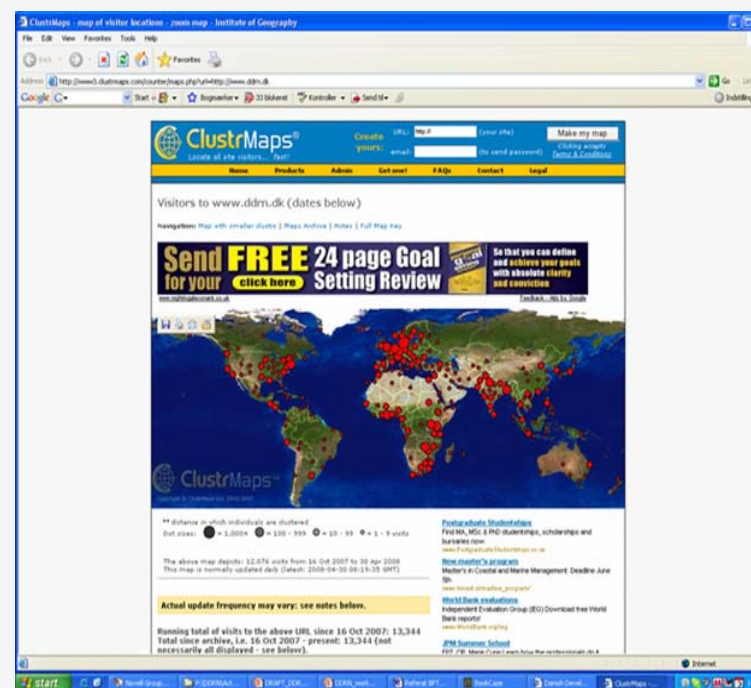
The Danish Knowledge & Research Networks in Brief (3)

- **Membership**

- Individuals and institutions
- Researchers, private sector, NGOs, dev organisations.

- **Structure**

- Board + small coordinating secretariats. Members attached via virtual communications, unifying events and member-led research activities.



The Danish Knowledge & Research Networks in Brief (4)- Activities

- ***Information***
 - Websites, newsletters, briefs and research overviews
 - Member/research data bases
- ***Research communication***
 - Project results communication
 - Links to RC networks and resources
- ***Seminars and platforms in North and South***
 - Across themes, institutions and stakeholder groups



More information
on

www.ddrn.dk

www.danishwaterforum.dk

www.enrecahealth.dk

Thanks!



Network theory: Key Functions

Community builders

Organising unifying events and activities



Convenors

Bring together research and development across, institutions; disciplines; actors (N-S, S-S)



Filters

DDRN: Thematic information services to members



Facilitators/ learners

Facilitate contacts and knowledge sharing.



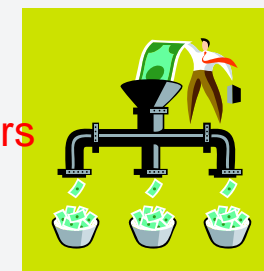
Amplifiers

Translate complex issues into simple messages to reach a wider audience



Investor/providers

Channel to provide members with resources



Source: E. Mendizabal (Rapid programme/ODI)



Network Practice: Challenges and issues (I)

Community building:

- Diversity in membership a strength, but demanding as different groups have different agendas, e.g. researchers and consultant, N/S
- Individual versus institutional ownership

Filtering:

- Is very time consuming and require communication and other skills in secretariat/member base

Amplifying:

- Require even better communication skills and alliances



Network practice: Challenges and issues (II)

Convening:

- Tools and skills requirement matching complex audiences

Facilitation:

- Members tend to deal with the secretariat as a service provider and less with each other
- Member ownership

Investing and Providing:

- Lots of funds for processes and no funds for research projects
- Increased competition for funds
- DK researchers are expensive partners



Guiding Principles

1. Functions are non-exclusive and roles and functions may change over time.
2. Keep plans and budgets flexible to enable adjustments to changing contexts – networks not projects;
3. Activities and strategies to be developed against the needs of members (sustainability of the network);
4. Types of membership matters, e.g. institutional/individual N-S, S-S-N and members/users;
5. Make sure that skills and competences in the secretariat or core group (if relevant) reflect the functions of the network.

Thanks again!

