

Dilemmas and avenues of digital interaction and distance in the living labs Upper Citarum and Enrekang

Dwina Roosmini, Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB).

Loes Witteveen, Research group Communication, Participation & Social – Ecological Learning, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (HVHL). Knowledge, technology & Innovation group of Wageningen University (WUR).

Nurdahalia Lairing, Research Center for Communication, Social Ecological Learning and Sustainable Environment, Universitas Muhammadiyah, Enrekang (UNIMEN).

Ira Dwi Mayangsari, department Communication and Business, Universitas Telkom.





Urgency!



Complexity?



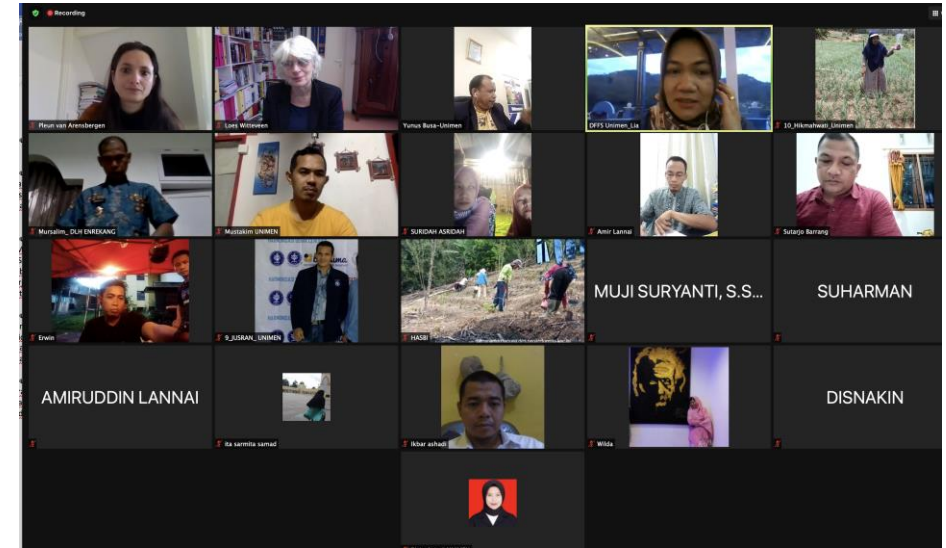
Complexity?

Our focus

Context: urgent, complex, environmental multi stakeholder processes.

Focus: processes of interaction, knowledge co-creation, horizontal communication.

COVID lockdowns advanced virtual communication.

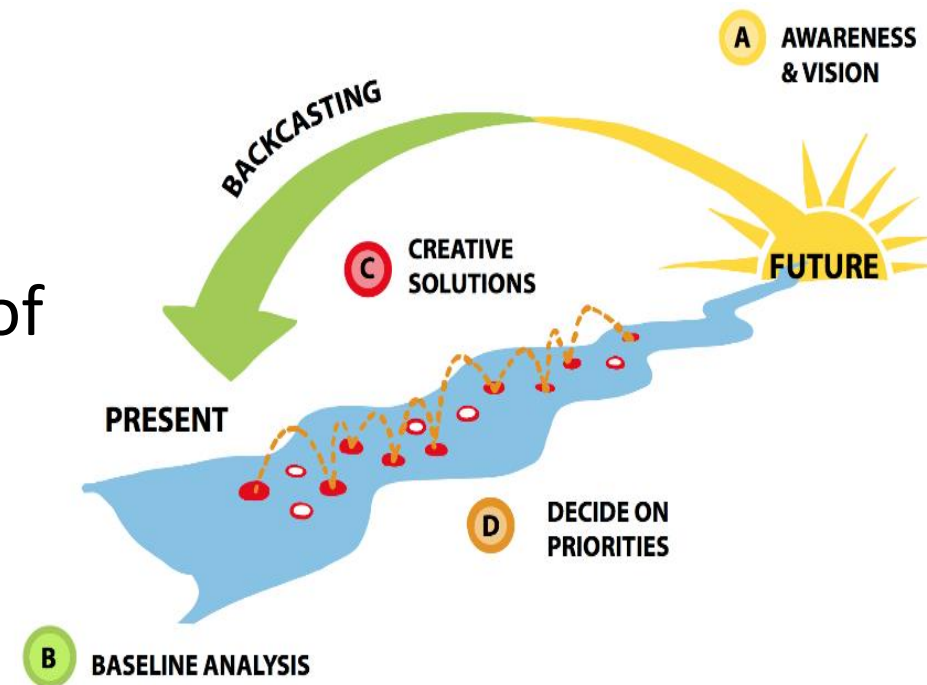


Living lab approach

Institutional stakeholders are aware of interdependencies in achieving SDGs and reach out to the communities as relevant actor.

Search for new approaches to recognise, encourage and act on the vision and the voice of communities.

Reconsidering accountability and address 21th century skills of researchers and other professional/ institutional living lab partners.



Living lab Upper Citarum River

Sustainable water management faces an array of technical, social, and political challenges.

Recognising the vision and the voice of the communities is a challenge.



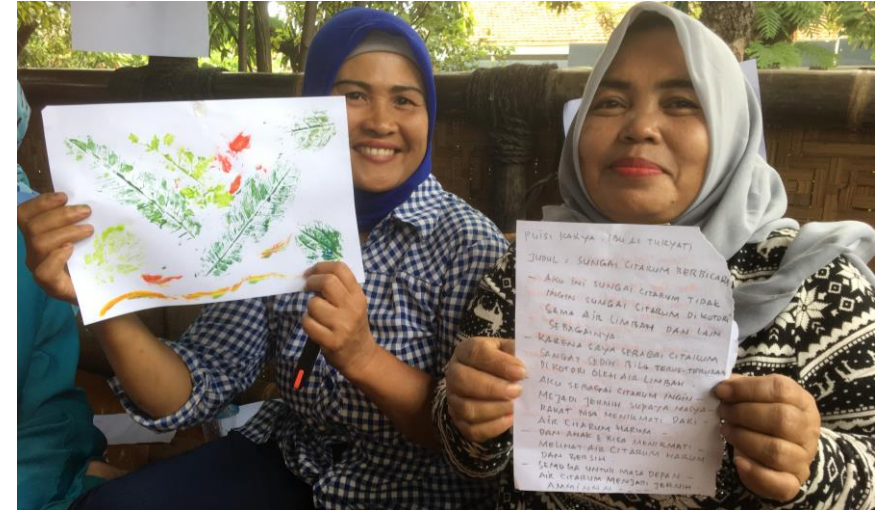
- Community-based approaches to foster stewardship of rivers.
- Repositioning the conventional collaboration with local communities reacting to institutional interventions.
- Institutional stakeholders rethink the role and qualifications of living lab facilitators.

Case study: Suara Citarum – Citarum Voices

Search for new approaches to recognise, encourage and act on the vision and the voice of communities.

Riverine communities on the Bandung plateau involved in vision and strategy development.

Community art project resulting in a Poetry route with 12 banners combining poems and paintings: **a personality of Citarum emerged.**



Living Lab Enrekang

Sustainable rural development faces an array of technical, social, and environmental challenges.

Reaching out to rural communities is a challenge for large distances in a mountainous region, seasonal floods, limited resources.

Institutional collaboration takes shape in a living lab approach.

- Rural farmer groups
- Departments of Agriculture, Environment, Livestock, Health
- Regional government
- University Muhammadiyah (UNIMEN)



Case study: UX training for DFFS

Design and development of a digital farmer field school (DFFS) as a communication platform reaching out to rural communities.

“We don’t want to disappoint farmers.”

UX design training to facilitate a human centred interface design, development and management.

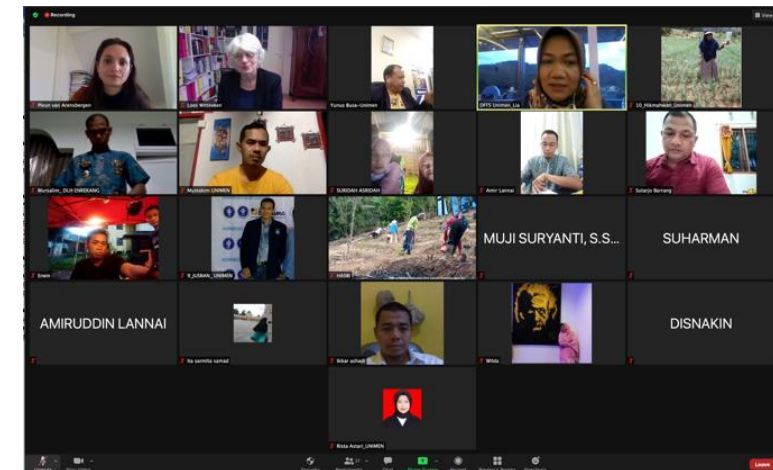


Dilemma's and avenues ...

A living lab is a communicative arena which can be shaped with the design of virtual, material or hybrid communicative processes.

During Corona lockdown we expanded our virtual world crossing distances in the material world and yet..

- Is it about virtuality or about crossing distances?
- Do the virtual and material world constitute a dichotomy?



Dilemma: Crossing distances (1)

- Geographical: km's, mountains, muddy roads, floods, transport issues...
- Socio – cultural differences: class, education, literacy, gender, language, etc.
- The season: rains, religious festivals, harvest time, etc.
- Connectivity and access
- Diverse knowledges, expert languages and textualities
- Science paradigms



Dilemma: Crossing distances (2)

The aim of crossing distances is to establish communication and participation in the living lab.

A communicative arena (virtual or material) requires a perspective of human centred design.

Articulating design principles adds transparency on ethical procedures, portrayal, framing etc for UX/UI design.



Dilemma: It's is not a dichotomy (1)

A dichotomy of virtualization versus life arenas complicates a focus on communication and participation.

Mediated participation is a strategy for 'voicing' combining virtuality and materiality.

Do virtual arena's make understanding easier and more uniform for relevant stakeholders in living labs and thereby shortening the decision-making time?



Dilemma: It's is not a dichotomy (2)

Virtuality exposes the imperative of human centred design in contemporary processes of transitions and social change.

More research is required to prevent perverse choices in deciding between material or virtual communication and research strategies.



To conclude

Expertise and training of new **transdisciplinary professionalism** is needed to act on contemporary urgencies (*building a bridge while you walk on it*).

Human centred design focus requires a long-term vision which may be hindered by financial and other resources.

