RCE Session on Learning and Society at WEEC 2009

Is ESD making a difference?

Heila Lotz-Sisitka

14 May 2009

4th International RCE Conference, Montreal, Canada
Is ESD making a difference?

- To whom?
- For what purpose?
- A difference to society?
- A difference to the environment?
- Different societal practices?
- Different learning processes?
Trends in evaluation

- 1st generation (positivists – measure)
- 2nd generation (interpretivists – describe)
- 3rd generation (judgement – formative)
- 4th generation (constructivists – agreed claims, utilisation focussed)
- Beyond 4th generation (critical realists)
  - Measurement, objectivity and ability to control ‘variables in social contexts’
  - Critical dimension, participation and reflexivity
  - Evaluation AS Learning
Evaluation in the context of sustainability

Towards non-prescriptive and emergent indicator frameworks for self-determined sustainability with a planetary conscience
Indicators set in advance (static)

Emphasis on contextual use

Process-oriented Collaborative learning Reflexivity

Indicators are emerging (dynamic)

Emphasis on universal use

Outcome-based assessment Comparing Ranking Evidence

Source, Arjen Wals, 2009 Montreal RCE Evaluation Presentation
How can we develop more reflexive monitoring and evaluation systems that can support meaningful learning?
Designing learning-based frameworks for evaluation

- Proposing a Framework model for Integrative Development Processes towards Sustainability as Evaluation & Planning Tool

Source: Clemens Mader 2009, RCE Graz-Styria. Monreal Evaluation Presentation
Examples of practice from RCEs

- Canada and Russia

- Showing how local collaboration can contribute to environmental rehabilitation and improvement of quality of life, and new learning

- The question of how we monitor and learn from what is happening
Eco-cultural sustainability as focus

- The focus of our monitoring, evaluation and learning practices – not everything can be measured – what about empathy, care etc.

- How to build eco-cultural sustainability in our societies – how to address the gaps between thoughts and action?

- What competencies and social learning processes are needed and how do we recognise and develop them?

Source: Harold Glasser RCE Grand Rapids
Key question again ...

- How can we develop more reflexive monitoring and evaluation systems that can support meaningful learning and eco-cultural sustainability / or socio-ecological resilience?