

Water Belongs in the Community



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Equitable Social Organization in Natural Resource Management

Theory

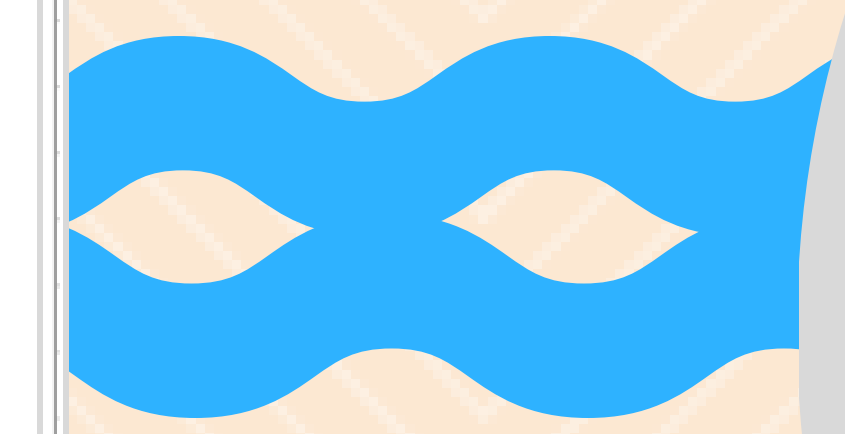
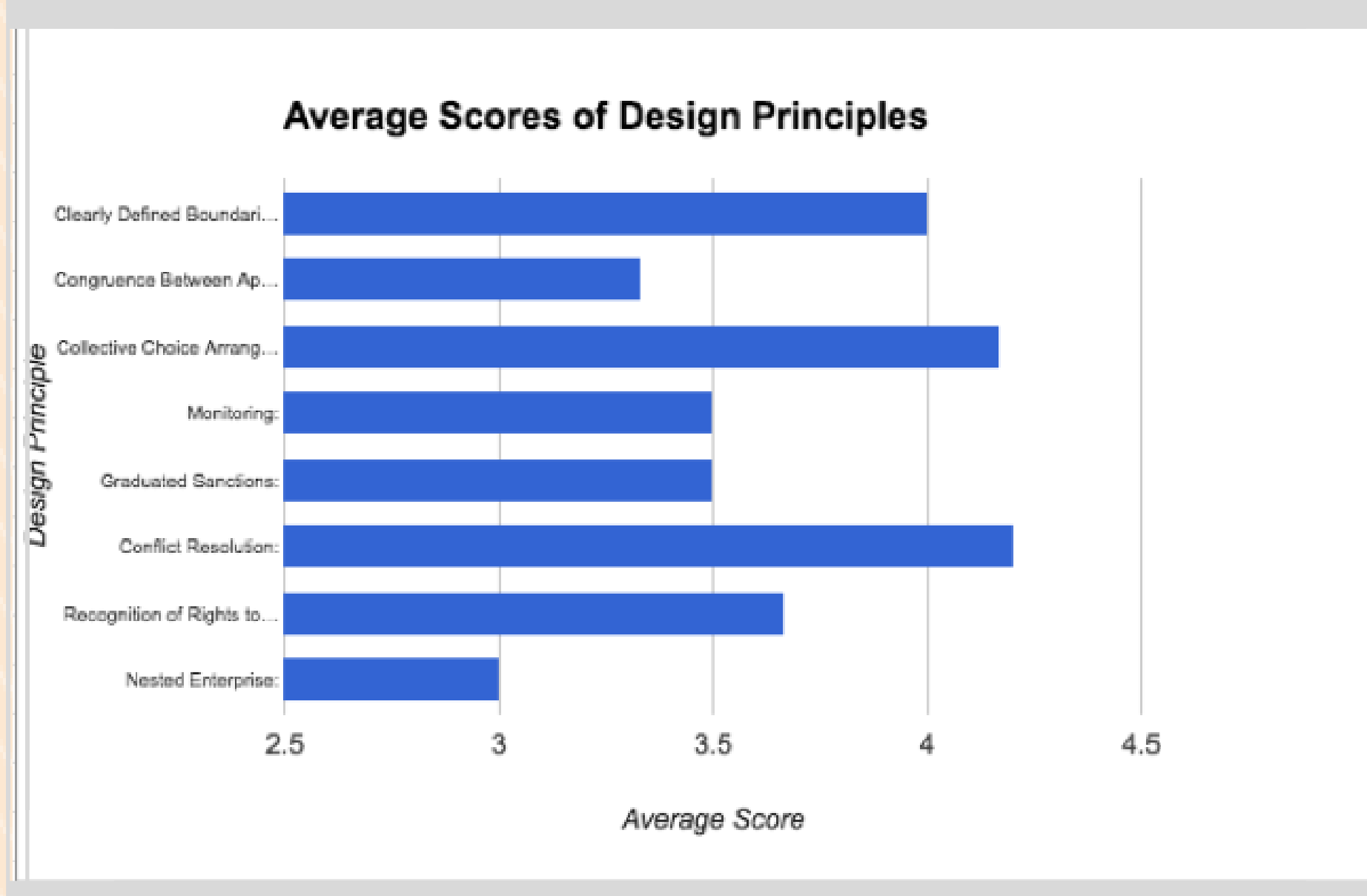
- Tragedy of the commons: individuals acting out of self-interest leads to resource depletion
- Community based natural resource management: where members from the community act as equal common property resource managers
- Resource managers struggle to find appropriate balance between efficiency and better livelihoods



References

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8 Design Principles for Participatory Irrigation Systems



Findings

- Changes to Design Principles 2, 4, and 5
- Subdividing rules of systems into separate sets to address different types of problems allows for recognizing complexity in order to understand incentives of water users under a variety of contexts
- Adaptive governance suggests current systems should be reinterpreted to meet changing conditions



To what extent is community-based natural resource management a viable alternative to centralized management

To what extent do participatory irrigation systems in Southeast Asia practice self-governance?

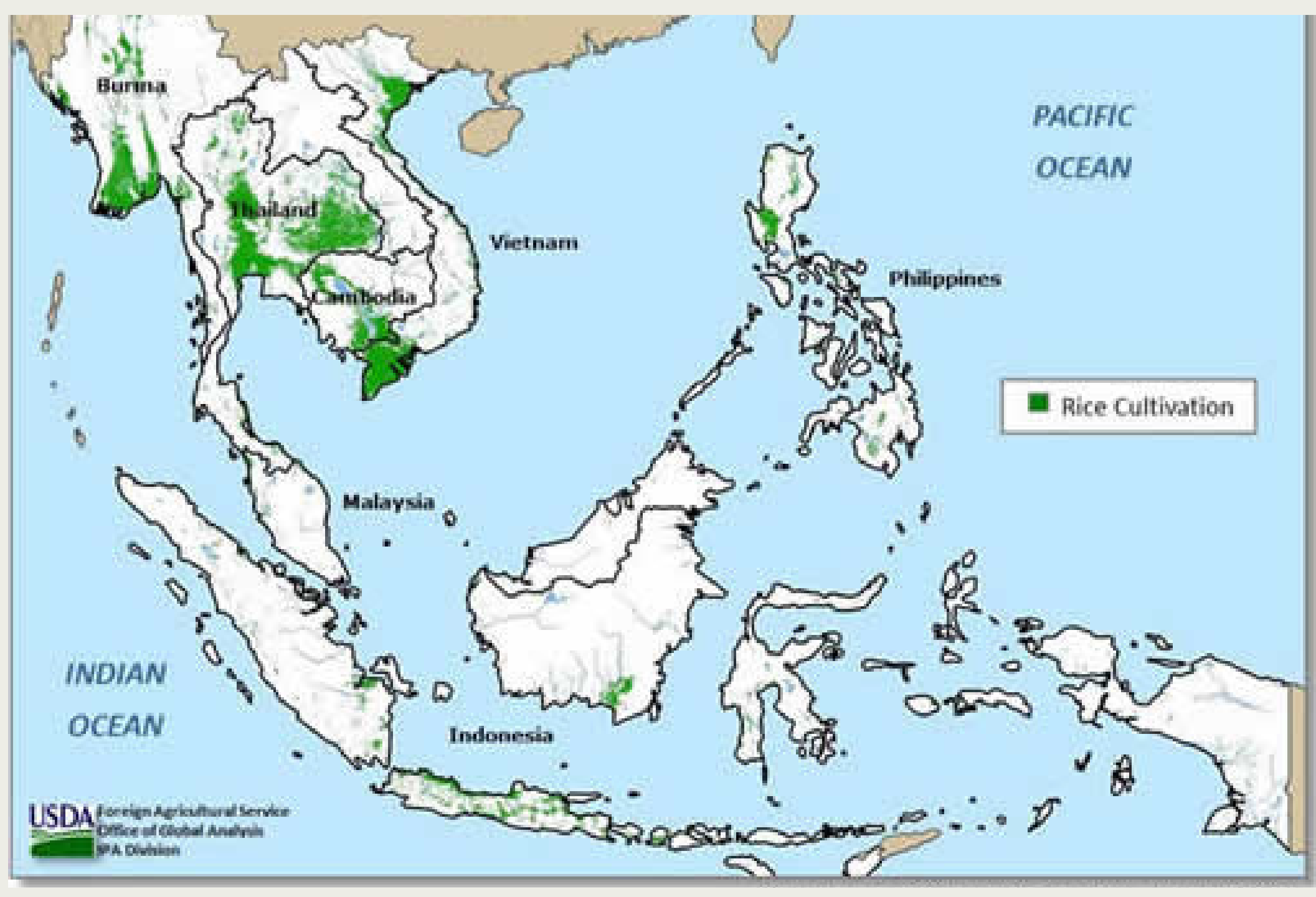
Methods

- Prescription analysis of 8 contextually relevant case studies
- Compared qualitative data of case studies
- Provided ratings for adherence to Ostrom's Design Principles
- Compared average scores of ratings
- Suggested improvements to principles with lower scores



So What?

- CBNRM = more sustainable than centralized governance
- Rethink common perceptions of authority, power distribution and property
- Public ownership of the commons empowers and promotes self-governance
- Environmentality: environment influences human action towards sustainability



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