Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

Date:	August 8, 2012	Entry Number:	1223
Case Study Name:		**Understanding farmers' strategic decision-making processes and the implications for biodiversity conservation policy**	
Author:		Farmar-Bowers, Q. J. and Lane, R.	
Document Type:		Paper in scientific journal	
Year:		2009	
Language:		English	
Document Location:		Journal of Environmental Management 90:1135-1144	
Full Citation:		Farmar-Bowers, Q. J. and Lane, R. 2006. Understanding farmers' strategic decision-making processes and the implications for biodiversity conservation policy. Journal of Environmental Management 90:1135-1144.	
Region:		Oceania	
Country:		Australia	
Ecosystem Type:			
Social Characteristics:		other (farmers)	
Scale of Study:		Community, household	
Resource Type:		Biodiversity conservation	
Type of Initiative:		Research-driven project	
Community Based Work:		Resource management	
Keywords:		Australia, Biodiversity, Decision-systems, Farming families, Grounded theory, Hierarchy, Motivations, Natural resource management, Personal career path, Environmental policy and Systems-thinking.	

Summary:	**The conservation of biodiversity is an important issue world wide and in Australia the maintenance of native biodiversity on farms makes an important contribution to overall conservation objectives. This paper seeks to explain Australian farmers' rationale for maintaining biodiversity on their farms for personal as opposed to business reasons by developing a decision-systems theory from in-depth interviews. This difference has implications for policy development. The decision-systems theory is divided into two main sections. The first section contains five parts. (1) A hierarchy of motivation stories, (2) the concept of suitability and availability of opportunities, (3) a hierarchy of three decision-systems, (4) the concept of personal career paths, (5) the concept of Lenses. The second section contains one part, a policy classification system called 'boxes of influence' that suggests how policy developers can use the information in the first section to develop new biodiversity conservation policy.** **The paper suggests that decision-systems theory could be used to shed new light on current trends in agriculture and become an important investigative tool for policy development concerning the conservation of biodiversity on farms.**