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Research to adoption: the role of the knowledge broker in participatory research

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SUMMARY

This chapter describes the experience of knowledge brokers in the design, delivery and evaluation of Landscape Logic as a participatory landscape research project. Across the five-year time-frame of Landscape Logic, the role of knowledge broking evolved from establishing the collaboration between six regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations and eight research institutions, to eliciting and refining the research questions, establishing and maintaining networks between researchers and natural resource managers, facilitating communication of results, to finally negotiating the meaning and implications of research findings with researchers, environmental managers and policy-makers.

Knowledge broking is a people-centred process and the primary task was developing and maintaining communication networks between all involved parties to ensure the research focus was mutually beneficial and could evolve in response to new information and end user needs.

Significant differences in history, culture and practice between NRM regions were revealed. These influenced how communication and negotiation were managed throughout the collaboration.