



UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL CHANGE

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of this discussion is to analyze the system's development over time and reflect on historical reasons for why things are the way they are. This type of discussion can also shed light on capacities in the system, for example in terms of how people have responded and dealt with crises in the past, and the various capacities available then and now. See also related activity sheet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has the system, including its benefits and dilemmas, changed over time?
- Are there significant historical legacies? For example, are there singular events (like a new policy) or cumulative changes (like out-migration of people) that has significantly shaped or influenced the current system and the benefits it generates.
- What kinds of shocks and stresses have been experienced in this system, e.g. recurring droughts, and low rainfall? Are there any patterns to this, e.g. cyclic patterns of droughts? If so, are the patterns showing signs of change, e.g. increased frequency or magnitude of the droughts?
- Historically, how did people in the system respond to changes they were faced with? Can you identify different eras in this respect? Which of these strategies might still be useful today, considering the new type of drivers for change and challenges that arise?