Maps and Locals Group – Update -  1-28-13

The Maps and Locals Working Group of the LTER Network was established in 2009 to develop methods for integrating local knowledge with GIS land cover land use change analysis and to use those methods across the LTER Network. Since its inception, over 11 LTER sites have participated at various levels. We have held several workshops and a session at the American Association of Geographers conference, and submitted a large proposal to the NSF Coupled Natural Human Systems program. In spite of the proposal not being funded, a core group of investigators have continued to interact about the opportunities for including local knowledge as a part of LTER. Working group members are listed in the table below as co-leaders of the workshop.

In 2012 we received a grant from the LTER Network office to convene a workshop of LTER researchers and graduate students. The goals of the workshop are to:

- Develop awareness of the benefits and challenges associated with using local knowledge in long-term ecological research;
- Expose participants to a range of methods for documenting and analyzing local knowledge, such as participatory mapping and scenario mapping;
- Introduce GIScience as a tool to analyze local-to-regional land cover use land change;
- Focus on integrating LEK with GIScience to understand of social-ecological dynamics;
- Develop individual plans for using local knowledge in LTER programs

At the time of writing this, we have 27 workshop participants from 11 institutions planning to attend. Participants are listed in the table below. As workshop products we will produce a final report and a paper for submission for publication. For more information contact: Gary Kofinas (UAF – BNZ LTER) – gary.kofinas@alaska.edu.

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<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Evans</td>
<td>Sakura</td>
<td>PhD Student, Department of Anthropology</td>
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<td>Gillon</td>
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<td>Gooch</td>
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