SLUSE - an innovative fieldbased learning and research approach

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The SLUSE consortia have several main points of collaboration:

- The development of a three week field course jointly organized by the different consortia during which interdisciplinary groups of students from all three Danish Universities visit southern Africa, Malaysia or Thailand and work together in the field with groups of African or Asian students. Between the four consortia, over 1000 Master students have registered for SLUSE degrees.

- Joint teaching and curriculum development by staff from the different consortia universities;

- Development of joint research projects. As a direct result of SLUSE 8 research projects in SE Asia and southern Africa have been developed and funded. These projects investigated sustainable land use and natural resource management issues through interdisciplinary and problem-oriented approaches.

The SLUSE framework

The basic premise for the approach implemented by the SLUSE consortia is the acknowledgement that natural resource management cannot be adequately studied and understood from a mono-disciplinary point of view. Furthermore, the practical knowledge obtained from field experiences can, at the same time, educate and qualify researchers and benefit recipient communities. The synergy of practical and theoretical knowledge can produce both academic qualifications and practical solutions that will enhance sustainable land use, as illustrated in the SLUSE model (see Figure 2).