

CBNRM Net

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network

Item: Africa (Anglophone), overview May 1998

This Item contains a broad overview of CBNRM for Francophone Africa. The overview is adapted from the findings of a regional working group at the 10-14 May 1998 International CBNRM Workshop, consisting of participants largely from that region (see the workshop website, section Regional Working Groups, for details).

Principal resource types

The Regional Working Group was asked to identify the principal resource types in their region. The resource types are (listed in the order given):

- Wildlife,
- Forests/woodlands,
- Marine and freshwater fisheries,
- Soils,
- Land,
- Water,
- Minerals,
- Communities, and
- Rangeland.

Special regional context and characteristics

The Regional Working Group was asked to identify special regional contexts and characteristics in their region. The regional contexts and characteristics are (listed in the order given):

- [no information provided]

Major messages

The Regional Working Group was asked to identify the major messages they wanted to give the CBNRM community in terms of how they assessed the situation in their region. The major messages are (listed in the order given):

- CBNRM is critically important for achieving sustainable rural development and conservation of biodiversity.

Key policy issues

The Regional Working Group was asked to identify the key policy issues they wanted to give to the CBNRM community in terms of how they assessed the situation in their region. The key policy issues are (listed in the order given):

- Tenure,

- Enabling framework (institutional, legal and policy),
- Human capital development,
- Financing, and
- Sustaining ecosystems.

Strategies

The Regional Working Group was asked to identify strategies that addressed the key policy issues identified earlier. The strategies are (listed in the order given):

(A) Tenure

- Acquire local definitions of community, tenure and user rights, with special attention to women's rights,
- Identify constraints and conflicts within and across communities,
- Recognize mobile resources and tenurial issues related to these, and
- Define rights.

(B) Enabling framework

- Aim towards a devolutionary process,
- Aim towards self-sustaining financial and social systems,
- Promote and reinforce other forms of resource valuation, and
- Institutionalize conflict management.

(C) Human capital development

- Strengthen local authorities and rights holders,
- Provide opportunities to use training and decision-making powers,
- Special emphasis on marginalized groups, especially women,
- Legal recognition for local management authorities (committees),
- Integration of indigenous knowledge, and
- Facilitation of exchange.

(D) Financing

- Attract private sector investment that promotes CBNRM,
- Targeted credit reforms, tax and fiscal incentives,
- Transparent processes for concessions and tendering,
- Joint venture frameworks, promote small enterprises,
- Clear equity structure,
- Eliminate perverse incentives against CBNRM,
- Equitable and transparent mechanisms for distributions of benefits, and
- Define innovative and creative financing mechanisms.

(E) Sustaining ecosystems

- Adoption of adaptive management strategies,
- Integrate indigenous knowledge of ecosystems with other knowledge systems,
- Cross-sectoral and transboundary approaches,
- Participatory planning, and

- Promotion of non-exploitative approaches, such as ecotourism.

Actions

The Regional Working Group was asked to identify actions, directed at the workshop participants, and to be implemented upon returning home. The actions are (listed in the order given):

- [no information provided]

Recommendations

The Regional Working Group was asked to identify recommendations directed at: (i) governments and other public agencies, and (ii) the World Bank and other donors. The recommendations are (listed in the order given):

(A) Governments and other public agencies must

- Demonstrate genuine and long-term commitment to CBNRM in terms of financing, greater allocation of public resources and parity with agriculture,
- Create and implement an enabling policy, institutional and legal environment that aims at a process of devolving rights to communities and local governments,
- Define and assign clear and unambiguous rights to communities,
- Recognize that CBNRM requires working on several levels in a global context,
- Invest substantially in human capital development, and
- Improve coordination and collaborative strategies both inter- and intra-regionally.

(B) World Bank and other donors should

- Demonstrate commitment to the approach,
- Lengthen the incubation period for CBNRM activities,
- Assign greater proportion of resources to these activities, including training,
- Re-examine effectiveness and current policies,
- Re-examine regional and national priorities, and ensure demand-driven responses,
- Demonstrate greater flexibility, including support to the private sector,
- Encourage national governments to commit to CBNRM,
- Improve coordination and harmonization, and
- Set up performance indicators to review the World Bank's response to the workshop.