

# ***CBNRM Net***

## **The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network**

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Item: East Asia, overview May 1998

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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):

- [no information provided]

### **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):

- CBNRM require the participation of all stakeholders in the development of policy and the empowerment of communities to act as collective managers of their natural resources for sustainable development, in partnership with the support of various stakeholders in an outside of their communities.

### **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):

- A community of interest as management unit that is focused geographically, but not constrained geographically,
- This community of interest must be developed as an integrated management unit through consensus-building and other democratic processes, primarily for the benefit of the local common good,
- Essential to build and strengthen vertical and horizontal linkages with strong government commitment,
- CBNRM necessitates a process of adaptive learning by multiple stakeholders that involves development of contextual understanding of socio-economic and bio-physical conditions that govern management of natural resources, and
- Ownership and control of natural resources should be transferred to local levels via a facilitating and responsive process.

## **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):

- Clear delineation of responsibilities, rights and accountability at all governance levels, with mechanisms for flexible adaptation, and
- Recognition of rights and responsibilities through a democratic process.

## **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):

- Development of new awareness, attitudes, trust and skills of all stakeholders,
- Creation of fora to address different problem domains and to facilitate adaptive learning,
- Devolve natural resource ownership and control to local governance,
- Develop collaborative approaches to resource planning and management, and
- Build capacity of local resources management institutions.

## **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):

- Appropriate (culturally appropriate and accessible) training for all stakeholders, including policy makers, implementors and community members, especially marginalized groups,
- Political commitment to support CBNRM, and
- Exchange of information and experiences (not a one-way flow), including fora for exchange between stakeholders to determine information needs, meet those needs, analyze and interpret information and make appropriate adjustments to management strategies.

## **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*

- Funding flows to be flexible, beginning small and increasing,
- Focus on creating an environment for collaborative processes and not on ‘creating structures’,
- Ensure that institutional structures and collaborations are not vulnerable to co-optation and bureaucratization, and
- Optimize resources outside of governments and communities, for example, media and research institutions.

*(B) World Bank and other donors*

- Reflect on the role of donor agencies in supporting CBNRM,
- Intra-agency coordination, and
- Conduct regional follow-up workshops.