

CBNRM Net

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network

Item: Africa (Francophone), 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):

(A) West Africa (Sudano-Sahelian and forested regions)

- Agriculture,
- Pastoralism,
- Forestry, and
- Mining.

(B) Madagascar

- Agriculture,
- Forestry,
- Fishing,
- Ecotourism, and
- Mining.

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):

(A) West Africa

- Desertification causing migrations from the Sudano-Sahelian zones to the Atlantic Coast, and
- Economic integration in Western Africa.

(B) Madagascar

- Member of the Indian Ocean Commission,

- Key geographic position and unique global biodiversity.

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):

- Improving CBNRM requires an effective decentralization of decision-making powers,
- The success of CBNRM is linked to the profit made by the majority of the actors in the community, and
- CBNRM requires an appropriate institutional, legal and financial framework.

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):

- Reconcile conservation with the development of natural resources,
- Ensure that the present decentralization process favors CBNRM, and
- Ensure an institutional, judicial, legislative and regulatory framework that is appropriate for CBNRM.

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) Conservation and development

- Income-generating activities,
- Policy incentives that favor CBNRM,
- Value natural resources, and
- Integrate development and the environment.

(B) Decentralization

- Identification of stakeholders: establish roles, responsibilities and rights,
- Strengthen capacities and recognition of local knowledge,
- Financial mechanisms at the local level.

(C) Legislative

- Participatory approach,
- Effective demand by the populations,

- Institutional arrangements for dialogue between stakeholders.

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):

- Raise awareness of decision-makers,
- Facilitate exchange of experiences at the sub-regional, regional, and international levels, and
- Information, education and communication campaigns.

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

- Take effective measures to ensure CBNRM.

(B) World Bank and other donors

- Ensure synergy and coherence in donors' activities,
- Flexibility in the identification and duration of CBNRM projects, and
- Help governments to give effective responsibility for NRM to communities.