

Linking Nature Conservation and Poverty Reduction

BfN's Activities and Lessons Learned

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) is the central scientific authority of the German federal government for both national and international nature conservation. BfN reports to the German Environment Ministry (BMU) and has key enforcement functions that arise under international species conservation agreements, in marine conservation, under the Antarctic Treaty and the German Genetic Engineering Act. The Agency's declared purpose is to develop an integrative nature conservation policy. Such a policy unites ecological, economic and social aspects, and mediates between the conservation and use of natural systems.

BfN's Motivation to engage in "Linking Conservation and Poverty Reduction"

- Raising awareness to jointly work on two fundamental problems
- Jointly developing suitable approaches
- Creating and using synergies
- Bringing stakeholders together
- Learning from each others
- Contributing to nature conservation that aims to reduce poverty

Selected Research & Development Projects in Africa

Ethiopia – Conservation and Sustainable Use of wild *coffea arabica*

Based on a research project funded by the German Ministry for Education and Research, BfN supports educational and capacity building activities to implement research result. These include: a workshop to exchange methodological approaches for linking conservation and poverty reduction in Ethiopia, a school award to raise awareness for the importance of wild coffee, a capacity building workshop on landscape planning as a tool for the establishment of a Biosphere Reserve Yayu Forest area (one the last wild coffee producing forest areas in Ethiopia)



South Africa – Partnership Biosphere Reserves – Krueger to Canyon/ Rhoen

Biosphere Reserves are an important tool for BfN's international cooperation, due to their strong focus on linking conservation and sustainable development. In this context BfN supported the exchange of the German Biosphere Reserve Rhoen with the South African Biosphere Reserve Krueger to Canyon that resulted in the development of partnerships between schools and universities as well as business partnerships and joint ventures. The project is coordinated by Geomedia, Germany.

Ivory Coast - The Potential of ABS for financing Protected Area Management

Building on a long-term project on sustainable management of the Tai National Park carried out by GTZ and partners BfN supports a process that aims to further the potential of ABS to finance the management of protected areas, based on the example of Tai National Park. As a result of a workshop a decree has been drafted and a process of involving local stakeholders has been initiated.

Networking

- Linking policy, science and implementation
- Contributing to processes that foster linking conservation and poverty reduction
- Serving as a contact point and a facilitator
- Organising workshops (e.g. regular Vilm Workshops on Linking Conservation and Poverty)

Lessons Learned

- Long-term commitment and support
- Develop strong partnerships
- Build on and link activities

Issues / Questions for Discussion

- Experiences with linking policy, science and implementation in the context of conservation and poverty.
- What specifically could be the role of government agencies in linking conservation and poverty?
- Exchange on processes and activities for linking conservation and poverty.

