

Wetlands & Poverty Reduction Project



WPRP Demonstration Projects

Lessons Learned

CBD – Biodiversity and Poverty – May 24, 2008

WPRP Demo Projects - Lessons Learned

- **Development/Conservation Partnership-Based DP support Dialogue**
 - DPs have role of independent broker to facilitate dialogue among conflicting stakeholders where none was previously taking place
- **Intervention & approach reflect Community**
 - Work through existing clubs and groups
 - Create new groups (i.e. NRM Committees) through recognized authority
 - Tailor intervention to defined needs -> flexibility
 - Build on and improve upon existing knowledge(s), skills & capabilities/activities

WPRP Demo Projects - Lessons Learned

- **Basic Needs before Conservation...but..**

- To attract interest and participation -> must be a clear household-level livelihood benefit
- Bio-rights approach proving to be useful financial incentive to ecosystem restoration
- Beware of villagers perspective of 'risks' and 'opportunity costs' of new activities – or expecting participation in wetland activities when others may have greater 'value'
- Where possible – promote new 'economic' activities that reduce pressure on wetlands

- **Local Monitoring helps to show change**

- Collect data that shows improved trends in locally defined indicators – i.e. nutritional status, monetary benefits etc.
- Help reinforce community commitment

WPRP Demo Projects - Lessons Learned

- **Capacity Building & Training**

- Often too formal and too theoretical
- Focus on practical, 'hands-on' skills
- Empowerment, confidence-building, organising skills
- Applies to both field-staff and community members

- **DP Consortium to Share, Improve**

- Regular communications, exchange of technical work, annual workshops/field trips
- Exchange visits among field-staff and communities
- Additional benefits → but time consuming

- **DPTG Motivates & Promotes Learning**

- Rather than evaluation consultants -> DPTG act as mentors provide support, advice, etc.
- Applies to both field-staff and community members

WPRP Demo Projects - Lessons Learned

- **Integrating with Government Policy to Replicate & Ensure Sustainability**

Kenya:

- Kimana Wetland Association is demonstrating how communities can have a role in wetland management for Kenya National Wetland Policy

– Zambia/Malawi:

- Discussions taking place with COMESA who plan to use wetlands to achieve Food Security policy -> creating significant demand for expanding agriculture in seasonal wetlands

– Indonesia:

- Inclusion of government extension staff has led to development plans and budgetary allocations at local level