

Eco-livelihoods



Philip Powell – CCD Workshop Leeds University 2012

CBNRM and CCD - Key Issues

- Protected areas – survival in 21st century
- Post conflict societies - reconstruction
- Acute poverty and underdevelopment of marginal “Cinderella” areas
- “Managing poverty” rather than “managing development” around conservation “wilderness” areas
- Dilemma of “animal” versus “people” driven conservation strategies
- Rewarding custodians of natural resources through transfer of resources must be a priority.
- Extreme weather events having impact on degraded marginal areas.
- Unconstrained intrusion into key areas by extractive industries.

Carbon as PES

- 2001 Mozambique with University of Edinburgh - carbon project to join up biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and sustainable development
- Now mature project – 2 million dollars traded
- Development for 30 000 people – food security, agric intensification, forest conservation and management, reforestation.
- Significant evidence of successful CBNRM – Gold status in all three categories of the CCB Standard as well as a pilot Plan Vivo Project
- Failure for following reasons:
 - Sales are now negligible –voluntary market has lost traction
 - Two new sites have failed to attract any investment despite proof of concept and
 - No workable national or international framework.

Beyond carbon

- Disillusioned with carbon markets
- Constantly under pressure to discount credits from big players in the market ie PCF
- No reward for complexity of solutions
- No rewards for addressing drivers of deforestation– focus on technical issues.
- Portrayed as a cheap solution
- No appetite amongst funders for anything beyond pilot projects
- Ignoring poverty as key driver for deforestation.
- Governments looking to nationalise carbon benefits – extreme elite “re-capture”

PES and communities

- Search for eco-system type services that can be developed as enterprises for communities to sell.
- Forced to look beyond global market and remote purchasers that characterises carbon market.
- Failure of governments in Africa to recognise potential for joined up development.

New realities in Africa

- New “Scramble for Africa” – extractive industries (mining, oil, gas etc).
- Vast investment – exceeds aid and donor contributions.
- Going into the margins – “Greenfield” sites.
- Proximity to conservation and high biodiversity areas.
- Contrary to general trend of rural depopulation – new towns and cities.

Challenges

- New threat to key areas :

1. High biodiversity areas.
2. Ecologically sensitive ie wetlands/catchment areas.
3. Areas in which forest communities are significantly dependent on natural resources.
4. Little or no legal protection – mineral rights trump surface rights.
5. Significant influx of new people into these sensitive areas.

Industry Drivers

Extractive industries have different factors influencing them:

1. Statutory obligations
2. CSR requirements
3. International Standards
4. Scrutiny/oversight
5. Share holder awareness
6. Utilitarian “operational” considerations

Community Drivers

- Destruction of social capital and community structures.
- Unsustainable resource use.
- Influx and elite capture.
- Food security (land displacement/inflation)
- Livelihood destruction.
- Impact of unplanned development.
- Peak labour shortages in agriculture.
- Local frustration due to lack of opportunities for local people.
- Vacuum – no government planning and management.

Implications for CCD

- Unconstrained development.
- Unsustainable use of natural resources, extractive industry and “mining” of natural resources by communities.
- Destruction of the environmental safety net for communities in marginal areas.
- Increased vulnerability due to destruction of livelihood options.
- Increased vulnerability to extreme climate and other natural disasters.
- Increased exposure to vector borne diseases.

Eco-livelihoods

- Looking at Greenfield sites and exploration/mine construction phase.
- Engaging with developer to address the drivers.
- Engaging with communities to manage change and natural resource consumption.
- Community driven CED programmes.
- Establishing baselines for resources and usage patterns.

Responses

- Livelihoods preservation, recreation and creation.
- Food security – agricultural intensification, crop diversification, improved processing and storage
- Community Based Natural Resource Management –private/public partnerships
- Infrastructure – water, roads, health, education, community facilities

Advantages

- Long life of mine – typical development project is 3 – 5 years, mines plan for 10 – 40 years.
- Focus on long term solutions –not interested in pilot projects.
- Utilitarian interest in avoiding elite capture
- Infrastructure/equipment and administrative and technical capacity.
- Anticipating development - Land Use Plans important.

Examples of Community Services

- Creating community service micro-industries for transactional solutions
 1. Growing trees, shrubs, vetivier for rehabilitation
 2. Undertaking and managing rehabilitation/phyto-remediation
 3. Growing vegetables and producing food for mines (fish, poultry, eggs, honey etc)
 4. Producing materials ie poles/wood fuel
 5. Carbon capture in managed woodlands
 6. Watershed management
 7. Fire management

Challenges

- Lack of government framework and legal requirements. This needs to be obligatory under law and needs oversight and inspection to ensure compliance.
- Scale of influx of “outsiders” with no vested interest in CBNRM.
- Political agenda for internal “colonisation” of “Cinderella” regions.
- “Mining is our core business” attitude.
- Government abandons its responsibilities.
- Extractive industry becomes “mini state”.
- Resource capture through “conservation” by investors.
- Requirement for upfront investment before any return from extraction.

How does this measure up?

- Clearly delivers community benefits and creates community resilience and builds social capital.
- Must supplement transparent and equitable contribution to national economy through taxes.
- Establishes best practice standards for policy framework and fills vacuum of government neglect.
- Infrastructure and capacity to monitor and record against baseline is present but requires oversight.
- Long life of mines and need to have demonstrably viable exit and closure strategies contributes to permanence.
- Emphasise of Community Engagement and Development (CED) on vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Food security, crop diversification and intensification of production.
- Improved processing and storage for resilience.

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