

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS INITIATIVE

Chairpersons: Denis Blamont (WMPA) and Benedicto Sanchez (BIND)

The workshop was scheduled to be divided into two parts: one was the presentation of the work already completed in this initiative; another was the definition of future actions on the base of what had been achieved so far.

FIRST PART OF CUSCO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS SESSION: work already completed in the Initiative

BACKGROUND

The Interim Secretariat for the Mountain Partnership is currently organizing a series of workshops to help members further develop Partnership Initiatives. These meetings aim to provide opportunities for lead members and key resource persons to identify priority areas and produce draft work plans and strategies for action. These will be shared with all other members of a given Partnership Initiative and eventually discussed in a 'breakaway' session dedicated to each Initiative during the next full global meeting of the Mountain Partnership (Cusco, Peru, 28-29 October 2004).

As part of this process, a workshop of the lead members of the Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) Initiative was convened at FAO in Rome on 1-2 July 2004 to discuss ways of moving this Initiative forward. The workshop was attended by eight lead members and other key resource people, including representatives from government agencies, NGOs and the private sector. See Annexes 1 and 2 for the Agenda and List of Participants.

Rome Workshop Objectives

- i) To achieve a common understanding of issues related to SL in mountain areas;
- ii) To review activities carried out by lead members in the field of SL in mountain areas and identify existing resources and expertise;
- iii) To strengthen existing information networks and define new joint activities and mechanisms of working together; and
- iv) To discuss the concrete project proposal on "Improving the Environment and Livelihoods of Kenyan Small-scale Coffee Farmers", put forward by Dean Cycon of Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company, and investigate the possibility of replicating the model in other regions.

Rome Workshop Process and Outputs

Day 1 of the workshop focussed on achieving a common understanding of the main issues of SL in mountain areas and reviewing related projects/activities currently carried out by members. Exercises involved:

- i) Group brainstorming to identify principles and elements of the SL approach
- ii) Group brainstorming to identify strategies for promoting sustainable livelihoods in mountain areas
- iii) Individual presentations on activities/resources/expertise of members in the field of sustainable livelihoods in mountain areas

Day 2 concentrated on identifying concrete opportunities for collaboration between members. Exercises involved:

- i) Presentation and discussion of the project proposal on “Improving the Environment and Livelihoods of Kenyan Small-scale Coffee Farmers”
- ii) Filling in of action sheets defining the “who, what, where and when” of proposed collaborative activities between members

SECOND PART OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS CUSCO SESSION:

Suggested strategies

After this presentation, the participants to the Cusco SL session were asked to identify areas where they were willing to work in partnership :

1. Develop “lessons learning” framework on best practices in sustainable livelihoods
2. Explore the opportunities for new partnerships (community/private business/NGO)
3. Promote alternative, creative income-generation activities,
 3. 1 Value-added niche products; Promote product diversification to promote natural resources conservation
 3. 2 Increase market for organic products
 3. 3 Develop ‘lessons learning’ framework on best practices in sustainable livelihoods
 3. 4 Promote product diversification to promote natural resources conservation
 3. 5 Integrate the products into the local production systems
 3. 6 Promote responsible mountain tourism and ecotourism
 3. 7 Increase the value and marketability of community-based products
4. Development of synergies between various stakeholders
5. Increase direct payment for ecological and hydrological services

CONCLUSIONS

- Alan Blackshaw, Jorge Recharte, IUCN, MF, WMPA, TMI and ICIMOD stated their willingness to work on issue 1.
- Nile Basin Society, IUCN, PRAKRITI, ICIMOD, WMPA stated their willingness to work on issue 2
- IUCN, University of Innsbruck, Austria, Argentina, WMPA, PRAKRITI, MF stated their willingness to work on issue 3.1

Nevertheless, when it came to issue 3.2, the participants to the session, who in their majority had not participated to the Chambéry and Rome workshops, declared their uneasiness in front of the proposed actions. They were having a holistic view of their terrains and not ready to address the various issues separately.

So, the decision taken was that each one would send an "identity card" of his/her activity to the partnership secretariat, stating namely whether he/she was willing to take a leading role in the establishment of links between the actors ready to work in the same area, in the framework of the Mountain Partnership. The second phase will be that the ones who will have volunteered to take this leading role will try to set up a network/mutual learning alliance between potential stakeholders and partners or, at the very least, email links to identify areas and priorities of collaboration in the various activity fields.