



women's clubs, farmers' unions) offer some opportunity to build on existing decision-making and problem-solving fora and to address the issue of participation.

Support organisations have provided guidance and training in a range of conservancy development contexts. Material presented in the above discussion indicate that in some cases people are less satisfied with the level of participation in conservancy development. The role of support organisations, particularly NGOs, needs to be reconsidered in the light of the findings presented above. A focus on improving participation is a priority in terms of ensuring that conservancies are able to address both the livelihood security needs of their communities and the continued support of members and residents for the conservancy initiative.

Recommendations

The following recommendations can be drawn from the discussion in this chapter.

In order to establish conservancies as legitimate local institutions:

- Improve participation and communication by drawing on the lessons learned from Caprivi, and in other areas further exploring and building upon ways in which people currently cooperate and communicate (as identified above).
- Support organisations, particularly NGOs, to conduct preparatory studies with community groups to address the issue of participation. The focus of this should be on working with community groups to identify existing networks of cooperation (institutional or otherwise); the resources and issues that are currently the focus of these groups; issues of inclusion (who is included and who is not and why?); and what the current linkages are between these groups and conservancies or other bodies. This dialogue could then form the basis of support to establish lower-tier representative conservancy groups. These could be through any existing networks (e.g. church, traditional authority structures, water point committees, neighbourhood groups, kin networks) and there may be more than one or many. Support should then be given to assist these groups with the identification of their core functions, responsibilities and modes of operating with these groups (what form will they take? how will they function? how will they link to the conservancies?).

- Pilot the appropriateness of the establishment of these groups in a number of different conservancy contexts (biophysical, social etc.) and assist in establishing effective linkages with the conservancy institutions.
- Ensure that the different levels of authority, particularly existing traditional authorities, have a role and are represented at conservancy level, but leave the nature of relationships with the traditional authority to be developed locally reflecting regional and local contexts.
- Address the resource management and livelihood concerns of conservancy residents through the development of appropriate participatory methodologies (for example, Household Livelihood Security, or Community Development Planning approaches [see Chapter 5 and the main report conclusions]).
- Carry out further research to gain a better understanding of why residents are satisfied with the conservancy as an institution. Also address issues relating to the influence that support organisations have in conservancy contexts. Among questions to address include: what influence do NGOs have on local perceptions regarding the effectiveness of conservancies? to what extent do the provision of grants and training, together with other forms of support create incentives for continued involvement with conservancies? what are the implications of this for the sustainability of the conservancy initiative?

In respect to the issue of improving integration (related to the above issue of targeting support for livelihoods), the following are key:

- Support the efforts of central Government to decentralise and where functioning to work with village and other-level development committees (constituency and regional) to coordinate the various activities of Government and service providers.
- Ensure that conservancy activities and plans are integrated through these fora with the plans and activities of other institutions.
- While recognising the importance of secure exclusive group tenure for NRM, ensure that mechanisms and processes are available for negotiated access to key resources in times of need.
- Recognise that different resources are managed on different scales and institutional arrangements need to be crafted accordingly.

