

LAND TENURE NETWORKING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Workshop Purpose:

To develop a practical framework for a programme of African driven network activities on land tenure and land policy for continued learning, information exchange, collaborative research and capacity building for policy debate and practical implementation, involving governments and civil society.

DFID's wider goal: "To assist African nations in eliminating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods through effective implementation of equitable land policies.

Background:

- Current wave of land policy reform in Africa
- Sunningdale workshop in UK, January 1999

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Agreement on ownership of an overall approach to developing networking activities in different regions of Africa.
- Outline proposals for interim project(s) for a first phase of networking activities
- Preliminary indications of donor funding support

Assumptions:

- Significant challenges ahead in developing and implementing new land policies for many countries
- Importance of governments, civil society and donors working together to share experiences, and adopt the best practical approaches with positive benefits.
- Funding is not the main issue, but ownership amongst African Institutions and potential supporters – the challenge is to come up with credible proposals.
- DFID does not envisage being the sole supporter of regional land tenure networks – wish to explore options for joint funding.

Workshop Process:

- Presentation of findings of African regional networking studies, and review of wider networks/information and communication management issues.
- Discuss regional priorities and recommendations in 4 regional discussion groups (plus donor group).
- Plenary reviewing of groups findings and cross cutting issues in plenary.
- Planning meeting(s) to develop detailed proposals.

DFID's criteria for financial and technical support to network activities:

- Build on existing networks or institutions and develop partnerships with them, rather than taking over or creating wholly new institutions.
- Start small with a view to building on success.
- Build in case studies of “real-time” experience.
- Ensure participation by civil society and the private sector and not just Government.

Checklist for Regional Discussion Groups

- ✓ Identify CHAIR and RAPPORTEUR for group
- ✓ Review regional working paper – supplementary points from regional consultant
- ✓ Networking Purpose and objectives
- ✓ Networking themes and activities: e.g.
 - Managing customary rights
 - Gender and land
 - Policy research
 - National policy and legislative processes
 - Advocacy
 - Training and capacity building
 - Information management and exchange
- ✓ Questions of scale: national / regional / issues for Africa-wide networking
- ✓ Network structure – management responsibilities
- ✓ Priorities
- ✓ Next Steps