Cultural Appropriate communication
A Communities’ Perspectives

October 15, 2012
COP12- CEPA side event

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Overall Goal of CHIEHA

• The promotion of the conservation of our Cultural and natural heritage in the Sangwe Communal Lands and their environs through:

• Fostering the spirit of communal participation in the conservation of our cultural and natural resources focusing particularly on the equal involvement of men, women and youths.

• Sharing of information among stakeholders about conservation, culture and development and in the process provide communities with environmental, cultural, educational and earth healing skills so as to assist them to make responsible decisions about using their local resources.
Programmes

1. Environment and Culture Awareness
2. Earth Healing and Land Care
3. Sustainable agriculture
4. GLTPCA Communities’ Network

- Environment and Culture Awareness
- Environmental awareness bicycle rides & community drama performance
- Heritage bira or festival, Traditional song and dance
- Operation of an environmental Cultural and Information Centre
- Recording local history, culture and tradition
- Awareness patrols.
- Workshops and training
- Print and Electronic media.
- Statement, declarations, posters and pamphlets
Target Group - villagers from Sangwe and the adjoining Sengwe, Ndowoyo, Matema and Musikavanhu Communal lands

The total beneficiaries are above 50,000 people including those in the GLTP area
Communication at community level: CHIEHA & Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park Rural Community Network
Heritage festivals
Traditional song and dance
Community led participatory presentations
Community level Awareness Patrols
Communication through community elders

- ZimRAGS (Zimbabwe Rural Access to Government Services) Reform
  - Nyange - Collectively

1. Right to own natural resources
2. Right to a clean & healthy environment
3. Right to benefit from natural resources
4. Right to traditional use of our resources
5. Tenure security - Right to own land

Mambemba water project
- Bondo village weir
Community led research
Drama Performance
Reaching out: Local, Regional, National & global: CHIEHA Information Centre
Workshops & community meetings
Awareness in SCHOOLS
Cyclists to lobby for community benefits

Herald Reporter

TEN cyclists from South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe last Friday embarked on a 10-day ride to Durban, South Africa, to lobby for community participation and benefits sharing in parks and protected areas.

The cyclists represent the countries that are party to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTFP) and the campaign is aimed at raising awareness among policy makers expected to attend the World Parks Congress in Durban next week.

The 35 000 square kilometres Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park combines Mozambique’s Limpopo, South Africa’s Kruger and Zimbabwe’s Gonarezhou national parks.

The 10 riders, including two women, left Chibemense community in Chiredzi on Friday afternoon and will first go through Mozambique. They are expected to arrive in South Africa just before the start of the WPC.

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Cde Francis Nhema launched the Benefit Beyond Borders Community Cycle Ride, the riders will advocate increasing community benefits in conservation through initiatives such as community-run burst facilities.

Cde Nhema said the community cycle ride was aimed at exploring possibilities of policy and legal reforms that grant rights to communities settled on natural parks and protected areas.

“Our Government, with the help of friendly agencies like Africa Resources Trust and others, are looking at ways of empowering our communities who live around the park, which include the Chibemense people,” said Cde Nhema.

He said the importance of the ride was highlighted by the fact that it had the full support of communities in Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Cde Nhema said Zimbabweans must learn from their South African counterparts in Makuwela community near Kruger National Park.

The Makuwela’s reclaimed their land in 1998 after being evicted by the apartheid government in 1966.

“The community is already deriving benefits from the park by virtue of their proximity to it,” said Cde Nhema.

Mr Dladla Chibemense of the Chibemense Earth Healing Association said they incurred a lot of costs from wildlife but got little benefits from it.

“The costs include loss of livestock and crops through destruction by problem animals,” said Mr Chibemense.

Canadian International Development Agency’s head of aid, Mr Sam Londo said it was not too late to address the anomalies shared by various communities in Africa.

“We sincerely hope when world governments meet in Durban, they will consider endorsing the need to give rural communities entitled to participate in benefits beyond park boundaries,” said Mr Londo.

CEDA funded the cycle ride to the tune of $162 million through its Environmental Response Fund in Zimbabwe and provided the bicycles for the cyclists.
Banners, posters, fliers and pamphlets
Communities to benefit from parks

Sunday Mail Reporter

About 2 000 delegates drawn from international, national and local natural resource conservation organisations are expected to attend the 7th World Parks Congress to be held in South Africa in September to discuss ways in which rural communities in the region can benefit from national parks.

The communities, who are fiercely opposed to the idea of parks, have been told that they will be compensated for the loss of their land.

The congress seeks to correct the anomaly through the theme “benefiting beyond boundaries.”

Among the participants from Zimbabwe will be the Africa Resources Trust.

In an interview last week, the trust’s director, Dr Cecil Machena, said national parks management was mainly dominated by the private sector and there was a need for the communities to be involved in the practice in order to benefit them.

Dr Machena said the congress would be an opportunity for stakeholders to address the anomalies that affected the communities.

“The congress will provide those directly involved in the issue with the platform to discuss the contentious matter.

“The congress seeks to pave way for the direct involvement of the communities in the management of the protected areas in which the private sector is involved in order to benefit them,” he said.

The congress aims to facilitate dialogue among governments, NGOs, between the private sector and communities to find ways to make parks work for the benefit of everyone.

The provision of a technical focus for professions working in protected areas to exchange ideas will also be discussed.

The campaign to develop the rural communities is being carried out under the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) initiative and the Indigenous Resource Management Programme for Indigenous Resource Management (Community Care) which has given 17 rural districts councils in the country the autonomy to manage wildlife.

The programme is aimed at ensuring that communities are aware of their rights and responsibilities in managing natural resources.

The congress will also examine issues such as the integration of protected areas into the broader economy and building a more diverse and effective community for protected areas as well as facilitating and maintaining their relevance in the 21st century.

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Engaging the electronic media

( television & radio)
Solidarity with indigenous brothers and sisters = (communicating – common goals & unity)
Use of community statements & position papers

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**LOCAL COMMUNITY RIGHTS STATEMENT**
Zimbabwe Constitutional Consultative Process

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**Concept Note**
11 October 2012

**International Day for local community and traditional knowledge**

The idea for requesting the COF to declare or recommend to the GA to consider declaring 13 July an International Day for Local Communities (LCs) was born out of the historical Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting of Local Community representatives (UNEP/CBD/A/HRC/16, Para. e) which took place from 13-14 July 2011 in Montreal. From which a set of recommendations (UNEP/CBD/WGII/AD11) were made to respect, recognize and enhance LCs’ participation in the CBD Processes at various levels.

LCs within the CBD is developing a distinct and unique identity. Various mechanisms can be developed to enhance their visibility and identity and key among these would be to recognize them through declaring 13 July as the International Day for LCs since this was the first organized meeting of LCs under the CBD Framework.

The proposed International Day for Local Community (IDLC) will provide a platform for LCs to celebrate their success and contributions in promoting the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use and the achievement of the global sustainable development agenda.

There are thousands of LCs throughout the world and these have been custodians of the environment for centuries if not millennia. Current conservation and sustainable use efforts are based on the age-old conservation initiatives based on LCs’ traditional knowledge (TK), customs and practices of such communities and yet this contribution is ignored especially in the area of policy and decision making. The International Day on LCs will open avenues for practical and meaningful involvement of LCs in the global development agenda as this will allow parties and stakeholders to put LCs on their plans in a practical way.

Customary laws, practices and traditional knowledge of LCs are critical in the conservation of biodiversity and this has sustained Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) for decades in most developing countries. Celebrating the international day for local communities is respecting and recognizing LCs’ contribution to CBNRM and to the whole conservation fraternity.

“It is increasingly recognized that a majority of the world’s biodiversity is located on indigenous and community conserved territories whom have in many cases conserved and managed those resources sustainable for many generations”. The declaration of an International Day for LCs is a true recognition of the efforts of the LCs in managing biological resources in their rural and communal areas.

The International day for LCs is an initiative that promotes long-term survival of LCs and another earth as it provides a platform for LCs and stakeholders build solidarity among themselves. It will also help in promoting LCs’ wellbeing and livelihoods as it is a celebration of the age-old sustainable use practices of LCs.

LCs from different regions have distinct and unique barriers and challenges which can be addressed if they are recognized through the IDLCs. Such a day will help elevate LCs internationally and make LCs a national and global priority.

[21. Proposes that 13 July be declared the International Day for Local Communities.]

[22. Parties decide to recommend to the General Assembly to consider declaring 13 July the International Day for LCs.]
Works that communicate
The State must take all practical measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to provide social security and social care to those who are in need.

2.23 Legal aid

The State must take all practical measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to provide legal representation in civil and criminal cases for people who need it and are unable to afford legal practitioners of their choice.

2.24 Sporting and recreational facilities

The State must take all practical measures to encourage sporting and recreational activities, including the provision of sporting and recreational facilities for all people.

2.25 Preservation of traditional knowledge

The State must take measures to ensure the preservation and protection of knowledge possessed by members of local communities regarding the medicinal and other properties of animal and plant life in their areas.

2.26 Domestication of international instruments

The State must ensure that all international conventions, treaties and agreements to which Zimbabwe is a party are incorporated into domestic law.
Challenges

- Reluctance by various stakeholders to recognise and respect local communities.
- Lack of participation and recognition in all levels of policy development and implementation.
- No concrete policies, structure to support LC Representation & engagement.
- Lack of Access to Long Term Finance Mechanism for LCs devpt initiatives to implement CBD initiatives at community level.
Robert Chambers - there are two professionals who have killed development in the world. These are teachers and preachers because they talk without allowing their audience to respond and contribute to what they are preaching or teaching them (ESR 2004).