Preface

Enhancing sustainability requires a multidisciplinary approach. Because there is such diversity in resources, uses, and users, there is no universal formula, yet to promote, or assess, practices in context is essential. Without this capacity approaches to sustainable use will remain superficial and ineffective.

The present volume presents six detailed cases of uses of different facets of biological diversity in Africa (East, West and Southern), Central Asia and Latin America. The objective of the project was to identify 'Lessons Learned' from examples of sustainable use. To address this objective, six cases were selected because they had been implemented for several years and they were being implemented in different regions, thus enhancing the potential for identifying key lessons. Each of the case studies was examined using an 'Analytic Framework for Assessing the Factors that Influence Sustainability of Uses of Wild Living Natural Resources' The Analytic Framework (Annex 1) provided a consistent, systematic approach to the analysis of the cases according to 'domains of issues' considered important in assessing sustainability, including *inter alia*, ecological processes and functions, economic factors, societal and institutional factors. The authors, after completing their papers participated in a workshop hosted by NORAGRIC, an institute at the Agricultural University of Norway, in March, 2000. Since the workshop, the papers have been peer-reviewed and revised and updated where necessary.

To facilitate discussions in the workshop, the authors were asked to consider the following cross-cutting issues in their papers:

1. Policy implications of the use regime, including: Government authority, traditional authority, and tenurial rights.
2. Formal and informal social institutions engaged in managing and/or in making community decisions governing the resource, its use and distribution of benefits derived from the use.
3. Social processes followed in the communities in relation to conflict resolution and benefit sharing.
4. Ecosystem dynamics, including an assessment of the status of the resource(s) being used and monitoring processes employed to assess changes in the resource(s) and ecosystem.

Four of the six case studies analyzed use regimes that had been designed to be sustainable use projects:

- Conservation of Sulaiman Markhor and Afghan Urial by Local Tribesmen in Torghar, Pakistan *Javed Ahmed, Naseer Tareen and Paind Khan.*
- Community Wildlife Management in Zambia: Testing Indicators of Sustainable Use in a Case Study of South Luangwa *Cassandra Bergstrøm and Brian Child.*
- Reinventing Sustainable Use: Local Management of Natural Resources in Southwest Niger *Thomas Louis price and Bawa Gaoh Ousmane.*
- Tanzanian Coastal and Marine Resources: Some Examples Illustrating Questions of Sustainable Use *Julian Francis and Ian Bryceson.*

One case study analyzed a regime perceived as being unsustainable:

- Conditions for Sustainable Use: The Case of the Chaguar (*Bromelia hieronymi*) in a Wichi Community from the Argentine Chaco *Chris van Dam.*

The sixth case study provided an overview of the management systems of four marine protected areas in Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam and Australia respectively:

- Factors Influencing the Sustainability of Multiple Use Marine Protected Areas *Sonali Senaratna.*

The case study series is also available on IUCN's SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group web site (http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/). This electronic version of the series will be continually expanded as additional case studies become available.

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[1] The IUCN Sustainable Use Initiative was established in 1995 to improve understanding about the factors that affect sustainability. Since that time, sustainable use has evolved from being a somewhat controversial notion to being successfully incorporated into mainstream thinking about conservation. In keeping with this conceptual shift, IUCN has re-organized its work, moving away from a special, stand-alone Initiative towards an integrated approach. SUI was disbanded in 2001, but a Sustainable Use Team (SUT) was formed to carry on this work, synthesizing information and findings across IUCN's diverse programmes. SUT's goal is to disseminate information and knowledge about sustainable use, facilitate analytic and policy contributions from IUCN programmes and members, and develop tools and build capacity for understanding sustainability. A key actor in this effort is the IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG, http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/), an international network of experts operating in 17 different regions. SUT acts as the secretariat for the SUSG.