



Poverty Eradication and Development, example from Sudan



General presentation of Country

Poverty

- The incidence of poverty is high, 46.5 % of the population is below the poverty line with significant variation in the incidence of poverty between urban and rural areas.
- Poor people characterized by low income, low expenditure specially on education and health, lack of voice and contribution in decision making, vulnerability to natural crisis

Biodiversity

- Sudan is rich in diversified natural resources and biodiversity. Fertile land, natural forests and woodlands, coastal areas and wetlands, a great diversity of flora and fauna, fresh water biodiversity, wild and domestic animal stock ...

General presentation of Country

Poverty

- Poor people depend heavily on ecosystem and biodiversity for their livelihood
- As agriculture provides a livelihood for about 80% of Sudanese . Forest and woodlands are key elements in the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of households across Sudan

Biodiversity

- Forest and woodlands cover 29% of the total area under conservation.., protected area represent 10% of the total area

Before realising the importance of mainstreaming

- Decision-makers and the public underestimate the biodiversity values and their role in socio-economic development and environmental protection.
- Sudan's natural resources were being used in a way that is not optimal for economic growth and poverty reduction. The use of these natural resources is however characterized by unsustainable resource management, and the wealth has not translated into economic well-being, for example:

Before realising the importance of mainstreaming

- Sudan has great forest potential, the increase in forest dependent populations preempts sustainable forest management and restraint the implementation of forest policies.
- grazing lands were subjected to change due to the horizontal expansion of mechanized rain fed agriculture, drought and increased numbers of livestock. Conflicts often occur over the use of the resources.

What were the reasons for change?

- Sudan's natural environment contributes substantially to its economy, in particular the agriculture (backbone of the economy) and forestry sectors.
- High pressure on biodiversity and natural resources resulted in loss of biodiversity degradation of soil and, range land species therefore decrease in production and productivity ..(food insecurity ,economic return)

How did the transition to biodiversity mainstreaming get put into place?

- Biodiversity conservation principles are included in development strategies, Poverty reduction paper, Agricultural Revival Programme, 25 years comprehensive strategy, 5 years development Plan, NAPA, population policy, national environment plan, EIA,, Poverty reduction paper, MDGs, education and researchs
- The government declarations and the inclusion of biodiversity in the strategies and programs of the Agricultural Revival, indicate good will.

How did the transition to biodiversity mainstreaming get put into place?

- The country's environmental legislation is fairly well developed; there are several laws, acts, regulations, policies and standards in various environmental fields dealing with environmental protection and conservation.
- The rights and obligations for people to live in a decent and healthy environment have been stated clearly in *Environmental Protection Act 2001* which provides a legal framework for policies.

How did the transition to biodiversity mainstreaming get put into place?

- Two National Programs of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land- Based Activities were developed and approved.

The main phases of implementation

- Sudan has taken steps to improve governance surrounding natural resources and environmental protection
- Awareness raising on Biodiversity
- In-situ conservation was improved by the establishment of new protected areas.

The main phases of implementation

- Adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity
- Establishment of community forests
- A number of different development projects, such as NAPA and NBI Projects targeting biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction at community level are implemented.
- Establishment of biodiversity committee (different sectors)

Difficulties and obstacles

The most important constraints that hinder the implementation of the different activities are:

- Lack of resources for capacity building and awareness raising
- Awareness on biodiversity components is not fully achieved
- The current environmental legislations are sector based and a majority of the laws lack mechanism for their implementation
- Lack of sustained coordinated efforts between institutions, groups and individuals engaged in biodiversity conservation and utilization

The principle elements of the mainstreaming policy

- **Interventions (Policies, programs and strategies) :**
- Enhancing stakeholders collaboration for effectiveness of efforts for incorporation of biodiversity and other environmental issues in development plans and strategies
- Promotion of awareness on environmental with focus on biodiversity sustainability.
- Enforcement of laws and implementation of policies and plans.



Lessons learned

- Involvement of the poor in decision making and management of biodiversity and prioritizing their needs is very crucial for biodiversity conservation and their sustainable use
- Different ministries and other government agencies fully consider biodiversity in their plans and policies, ex. NCSP, NPC, MoF, MoA,

Conclusions

- large resources are needed for mainstreaming process and its implementation
- Creation of conducive atmosphere through strengthening national, incentives and strengthened synergies and collaboration

