



POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*A Workshop in Co-operation with the Böll Forum at
the World Summit on Sustainable Development, WSSD*

Johannesburg, NASREC, Boell Forum, Bateleur Conference Centre

Wednesday 28th August, 13:00 - 15:00

Moderation: Ulrich Tietze, Regional Co-ordinator Southern Africa,
terre des hommes, Germany

Language: English

Time	Description	Speaker
13:00	terre des hommes, Help for children in distress, Aims, objectives and policies	Ulrich Tietze terre des hommes, Germany
13:10	Poverty Reduction and Environment Protection	Walter Nyika SCOPE, Harare, Zimbabwe
13:30	Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Conservation through Micro Finance Support to Rural Communities. Experiences in Zimbabwe	Manasa Sibanda SAFIRE, Harare, Zimbabwe
13:50	The Community Resource Management Plan (CRMP): a tool for integrating indigenous knowledge systems into natural resource management	Phosio Sola SAFIRE, Harare, Zimbabwe
14:10	Sustainable Development, Poverty eradication and the use of natural resources	Peter Mucke CEO, terre des hommes, Germany
14:30	Discussion	

 **terre des hommes**
Help for children in distress

By

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Terre des hommes Germany is an aid organisation focussing on children and supporting 375 projects in 29 countries. These include school and training projects, initiatives for street children, working children, child prostitutes and refugee children. It also runs food security and healthcare programmes.

Terre des hommes helps people to act by themselves and for themselves. It supports people who fight against oppression or struggle with economic hardship. It seeks to empower them to try out their own ideas about life lived in dignity. We do not send out field workers, preferring to promote local initiatives: with money, advice and networking facilities.

Terre des hommes means: Earth of humanity

Terre des hommes endeavours – through campaigns, lobbying and publicity – to influence German political and business circle in the interest of children suffering hunger, exploitation or the aftermath of war.

Terre des hommes action groups are groups of volunteers in 150 German towns and cities. They work on development-related issues at the local level, organising events, sitting on refugee councils and raising funds for the projects. About eighty staff members work in the Terre des hommes office in Osnabrück.

Terre des hommes has Regional Co-ordinating offices in South East Asia, India, Southern Sahel, Southern Africa, Central America and South America. The Regional Office for Southern Africa is located in Maputo, Mozambique. A Country Co-ordinating Office in Harare is responsible for the projects in Zambia and Zimbabwe; the Johannesburg Office monitors the activities in Namibia and South Africa. The programme in Mozambique and Angola is supervised from the Country office in Maputo.

POVERTY REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

By

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ABSTRACT

The SCOPE Programme has refined permaculture techniques to develop a process for use by schools known as the Integrated Land-Use Design (ILUD). This is used by representatives of school communities (parents, pupils, and staff). The ILUD process involves the participants in using several observation techniques to develop a common understanding of their environment.

The ILUD process is the main frame of reference for all training workshops that are run by the SCOPE Programme. The training is aimed at giving participants the following skills: Planning for sustainable land-use management, Producing integrated designs for a given area, organic production, environmental management (including soil and water conservation), Monitoring progress.

Despite constraints, the programme has received achievements such as: Active involvement of teachers, pupils and parents, improvement in attitudes resulting in the recognition of the interconnectedness of people, land, goals and finance; the production of learning materials such as videos and slides on Integrated Land-Use Design.

The SCOPE programme emphasizes the maximum use of resources. It trains skills to make use of the environment. Schools should emphasise the usefulness of plants and not only the aesthetic value. Some plants are multipurpose, they can be used for food, medicine, as a source of income, shelter from strong winds, water and shade, if properly used. It further advocates the involvement of all stakeholders in permaculture such as children, parents and teachers. Schools that have adopted permaculture have had a change in their landscape. The landscape is now characterised by bio diversity, maximum groundwater, multipurpose plants and integration of animals into the system to help look after plants.

The SCOPE Program has achieved so far: 100 schools have benefited from the programme, food gardens with permaculture for HIV/AIDS patients have been integrated, research work has been done with traditional healers, programmes are being run around refugee camps and there are techniques designed to make maximum use of water harvesting.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
THROUGH MICRO FINANCE SUPPORT TO RURAL COMMUNITIES.
Experiences in Zimbabwe.**

By

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ABSTRACT

Driven by the need to improve productivity and promote sustainability in natural resource management, most governments and donor organizations are moving towards transferring management responsibilities for biodiversity conservation to local communities. This recognition of the need for local participation however remains a challenge. Poor rural community need to directly benefit under such programmes. Experiences in the dry parts of Zimbabwe's regions 4 and 5 saw the development and implementation of natural resource based enterprises as a strategy for sustainability attainment. Due to the nature of enterprises they need financial support for start up capital. The need for micro finance is therefore implied. Product development and marketing requires financial resources to satisfy the market and at the same time without compromising the resource base. This has been stimulated by the reliance on agricultural production and unsustainable utilisation of natural resources by the rural communities residing in marginal ecological areas to meet livelihoods needs.

Resource extraction for product development is commercial and can compromise the resource base as more income is realised by the communities hence becomes one of the management factors that need consideration. Local communities if involved in planning, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of biodiversity would improve biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in general.

The Batanai group in Rushunga and the Chisungo community in Chipinge supported by SAFIRE, have been involved in both the commercial extraction of Marula and baobab oil respectively as well as the management of the resource base. Through micro financing (micro credits) they have realised positive impacts on the enterprises whereby they are able to send children to school, expanded the business, paid back loans received and generally improved the livelihoods. The article presents the role of micro finance in facilitating natural resource based enterprises and its impacts on rural livelihoods in margin areas of Zimbabwe.

**THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP):
a tool for integrating indigenous knowledge systems into natural resource management**

By

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ABSTRACT

Resource management strategies are attempts to address the challenge of balancing resource conservation and utilisation. The state of resources and how they are used are inseparably linked to ecological processes. Thus sustainable resource use should be based on socially responsible economic development while promoting the resource base and the status of the ecosystem. The efforts to attain social responsibility make indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) a crucial component of any development and conservation intervention.

SAFIRE, (Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources) an environmental local NGO mooted the idea of a community resource management plan (CRMP) during the implementation of the MITI project. A CRMP consist of the assessment of livelihood systems and resources on which they are based as well as the development of strategies aimed at promoting and enhancing livelihoods and key natural resources. In addition, the plan has an adaptive management component based on a monitoring and control system to ensure sustainable use of resources. IKS integration was done through the participatory development of resource management strategies, by promoting best practices and mitigating negative impacts on resources and livelihoods.

The Tombo community of Nyanga, Zimbabwe have harvested thatch grass for both subsistence and commercial purposes for centuries. Their resource management strategies were based on the indigenous knowledge of grass productivity. This strategy was identified during the development of the CRMP. To date this community is harvesting and marketing grass to both local and international markets.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY ERADICATION AND THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By

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ABSTRACT

Global sustainable development calls for the eradication of poverty. This means a consistent change of direction in terms of economic, trade and finance policy at the international level. It also means, however, recognising the connection between combating poverty and using natural resources.

Land, soil and water are carriers of natural resources. With the air, they form the life support system for people, flora and fauna. They maintain biodiversity, genetic resources and raw materials, providing for the production of food and many other products. Land, soil and water thereby safeguard the livelihood and income of families. Protective and utility rights are therefore central elements of any programme aiming to effectively fight poverty. Land ownership continues to be very unequally distributed in many countries, particularly in the South. Yet land utility rights are critical factors in the use of natural resources and thereby make a substantial contribution to combating poverty. In addition, utility rights are disregarded or threatened through biopiracy, patenting and genetic engineering.

A further complicating factor is that the biodiversity of the earth is decreasing from day to day. The maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity and the just distribution of the resultant benefits have been key topics in international debates since the Earth Summit in Rio. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity was supposed to become the milestone for this: Yet the further increasing degradation of natural forests, the overfishing of almost all fishstocks and the continuing biopiracy illustrate how the hopes set on the biodiversity convention have so far not been met. They point up the effects of wrong policies and patterns of consumption. And these developments obstruct the use of local resources by local populations. Internationally binding legal instruments need to be elaborated and implemented.

Despite these political shortcomings, major successes can be achieved from time to time at the local level. Examples from the work of Terre des hommes partners illustrate this: sustainable forest use in Thailand, sustainable fishing in India, preservation of biodiversity in Peru and the land use programme of SCOPE or the natural resources management of SAFIRE in Zimbabwe. These projects also stand for a general change of direction in development cooperation.