



ANRE

FALL 2000

IMPACTS

FIELD MISSIONS AND AFR/SD WORKING TOGETHER

“IMPACTS” Will Help ANRE, AFRICA MISSIONS SHARE AGRICULTURE/NRM RESULTS

Our aim in this newsletter is to communicate USAID/AFR’s field results in agriculture and natural resources management, creatively and concisely. Our intended audience is the USAID field staff and their partners in the work of development. We’ll highlight written text with visual aids (photographs, graphics) so that *Impacts* can better capture and articulate your results.

We encourage our overseas colleagues to submit news items to *Impacts* – with pictures, if available. You might consider bringing along a compact camera on your next site visit. (Development work can be dry – put some art back in your life!)

Note that close-ups of two or three people doing something project-related often work better than shots of officials shaking hands or of 30 attendees at a workshop. Have your secretary digitize the best photos, jot down a couple of information bullets and send it off in an e-mail to us.

We plan to advertise a wide variety of results in these pages. Please remember to send us your materials if you’re interested in seeing your results in the next issue of *Impacts*.



CONTENTS

- 2 Tree Crops Program Launches New Projects in West Africa
- 3 Good News on the Natural Resources Management Front
- 3 What Does ANRE Stand for and What Does It Do?
- 4 May Meeting of FRAME Contact Group Highlights NRM Successes

TURNING RISK INTO OPPORTUNITY

TREE CROPS PROGRAM LAUNCH

NEW PROJECT IN WEST AFRICA

In collaboration with several USAID missions, ANRE's Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) has launched its first year of activities working with smallholder tree crop farmers in West Africa. At STCP's Regional Implementation Workshop in Accra, Ghana, in May 2000, 15 new activities were approved for sites in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria, with \$730,000 allocated to participating groups.

Stabilizing Crop Production. At the heart of this initiative is an ambitious objective: to stabilize and improve the quality of tree crop systems – such as cocoa, coffee and cashew – by raising the well-being of the smallholder farmers who depend on these crops for a living. To meet this challenge, STCP has organized a program of agricultural, technological and economic activities that help farmers to:

- improve tree crop productivity
- increase income from their crops
- conserve biodiversity
- use natural resources sustainably

The intended results are high-quality, environmentally sound products for the global market and long-term economic incentives for local farmers.

A Remarkable Lineup of Partners. One striking aspect of this project is the active involvement of key players in industry – including Mars, Inc., the Ghana Cocoa Board, the American Cocoa Research Institute and the Specialty Coffee Association, to name a few.

“The idea is to integrate their knowledge of global markets with the expertise of our field staff and our partners on the ground,” said

Jeff Hill, an ANRE agricultural policy analyst who heads up this effort. “Our goal is to provide much-needed training and services for tree crop producers.”

Smallholders at Risk. Crops such as cocoa, coffee and cashew are valuable commodities for West African countries, accounting for more than 50 percent of the foreign exchange they earn from agricultural exports. And chocolate manufacturers worldwide rely heavily on West Africa's tree crops, particularly since producers elsewhere have run into problems in recent years. The U.S. and European chocolate industries, for instance, get 75 percent of their cocoa from West Africa.

Nearly 90 percent of West Africa's cocoa is grown by smallholders. Unfortunately, this sector hasn't received the support it needs to stabilize production. Most farmers lack market information, extension services, financing, and technology. They're also vulnerable to market fluctuations, environmental degradation, outdated farming methods, and dependence on a single crop for income.

This is a precarious situation for both farmers and industry. But the active interest of public and private groups could transform the sector's



ANRE Impacts

ANRE Impacts is a publication of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Enterprise team of the Office of Sustainable Development, which is part of USAID's Bureau for Africa.

Editors:

Greg Booth (ANRE)
Peg Hausman (The Mitchell Group)

Your comments, articles, photos and announcements are welcome. Send to:

ANRE Impacts, USAID/SD
1325 G Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005, USA

PHONE: (202) 219-0505

FAX: (202) 219-0518

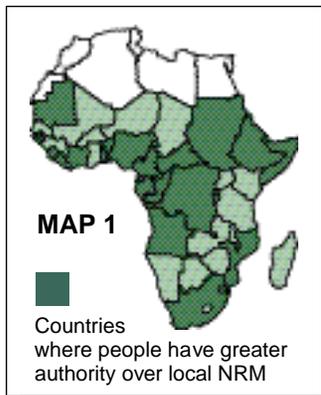
E-MAIL: gbooth@af-sd.org
phausman@af-sd.org

For more information on ANRE's agriculture and environmental teams, visit the newly updated AFR/SD site at www.af-sd.org

STCP continued on page 5

R4 REFLECTIONS

GOOD NEWS ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FRONT



In looking at the missions' natural resources management (NRM) review, as well as our ongoing sector analysis, we see a lot to feel positive about. USAID's work is on track in Africa; more and more sub-Saharan Africans are generating more of their income from sustainable NRM practices. But the pace of pressures on the African environment is growing, too. Beyond a doubt, we are in a race against time.

THE GOOD NEWS

USAID's missions and partners have already helped Africa make a huge amount of progress in policy reform and technology transfer.

Decentralization. One of the historical obstacles to NRM advances has been the top-down nature of governments' NRM activities in the past. As *Map 1* shows (above), 24 out of the 42 sub-Saharan countries have moved forward with decentralizing their NRM efforts.

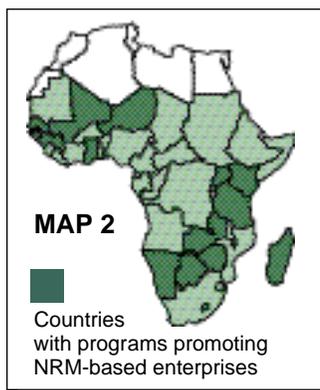
This means that many NRM actions and procedures are decided on locally, instead of being sent down from the capital city. This in turn means a better fit with local conditions and more local buy-in.

More capacity. Years of training efforts in new NRM methods are also paying off. Improved skills, combined with the improved national policies, are leading to more and more households doing sustainable NRM in countries as disparate as Malawi, Mali, Guinea and Zambia.

Thanks to USAID's efforts, households are managing their fuel, water and soil resources better. In Mali and Guinea, for example, low-cost but effective level-finding techniques now allow farmers to build anti-erosion dikes precisely on the contours of sloping fields. USAID has also helped community members work together to protect common field, forest and/or watershed areas – in Botswana, Guinea, Mali, Namibia and elsewhere. With the Nile Basin Initiative, future watershed collaborations will reach across national boundaries.

Raising NRM incomes. In many countries, USAID has helped resource users (including a number of women) find ways to earn money using sustainable NRM. USAID has also helped them tap more of this potential income by learning business management skills. See *Map 2* (right) for the countries where this has been happening.

In some places, growth has been exponential. Income to communities in Botswana from NRM-based activities climbed from \$300,000 in 1996 to over \$700,000 last year. Income to Ghana's Kakum National Park and surrounding communities from management of the park ballooned from a few thousand dollars in 1992 to over \$250,000 in 1998. Kenyan communities made over \$1 million in wildlife-based tourism last year.



NRM continued on page 6

WHAT IS ANRE?

ANRE stands for "Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Enterprise." It's a division of the office of Sustainable Development, the "think tank" for USAID's Africa Bureau. ANRE thus

- researches what's working (or not) in agriculture/ENRM development.
- meets and networks with others in the field to spread the latest methods and technology and learn more.
- helps to build African capacity for similar research and dissemination.
- conducts several special regional programs.

ANRE also monitors USAID-funded programs to make sure they will avoid damaging the environment, and provides for monitoring and mitigation of these programs to remedy any damage that might be caused.

Three teams make up ANRE: one concerned with agriculture, one with environment/NRM, and one with environmental quality review. You can find out more about these teams – goals, programs, partners, successes, team contact information and much more – on the newly updated AFR/SD Web site at:

www.afr-sd.org

MAY MEETING OF THE FRAME CONTACT GROUP HIGHLIGHTS NRM SUCCESSES

Forty environmental specialists met at Saly Portudal, Senegal, on 2–5 May 2000, for a very different kind of development meeting (see accompanying story on this page, *What Is Frame?*).

While the meeting was sponsored by AFR/SD, the participants – and the experts who led it – were mostly African (from 11 different countries) and mostly non-USAID. The objective: to bring together a group of environmental “champions,” most of whom would never meet otherwise, to share long-range perspectives on work from several corners of the African continent.

Besides looking at trends in individual countries, presenters compared public-private environmental dilemmas in East and West Africa. They also examined the state of **multinational networks** of professionals in African NRM, especially concerning sustainability – how can you keep the networks going after the initial donor funding runs out? and information – how can they keep up with what everyone else is learning and doing?

In connection with the latter point, the group reviewed new **high-tech information resources** that are becoming increasingly available to environmental specialists in Africa.

- More and more **Web-based tools and databases** are available, including FRAMEWeb and the NRM Tracker – and they are getting more input from African researchers. Indeed, as François Faye of USAID Senegal pointed out, the Web sites for the NESDA and CILSS environmental networks are managed from Africa. “Too often,” he said, “information about Africa has flowed in only one direction – a great deal has gone out of Africa, but little has come back in. It’s time for local management of development information.”
- Using **remote sensing tools** (aerial and satellite) has become less costly. Also, analysts are beginning to combine results with information from on-the-ground conversations and surveys. This gives them an earlier, yet fuller picture of places where NRM work is having an effect – or where new NR crises are unfolding.

Special presentations at the conference highlighted the **historical background** that still affects NRM in Africa as well as an issue often left out the environmental agenda: **exploding city populations**.

Presenters traced the changes from the command-and-control, game-park-oriented conservationism of the colonial era to today’s community-based, multisectoral approach. They particularly stressed **NRM progress** in the decade since the 1989 conference in Ségou, Mali (see accompanying story, page 5, *Taking Stock of NRM Progress*).

FRAME continued on page 5



Construction poles are sustainably harvested in Mali.

What Is FRAME?

FRAME is an AFR/SD project that helps NRM decision-makers in Africa find and use the most up-to-date information to:

- Analyze the issues.
- Plan strategically.
- Advocate their positions.
- Communicate with others about activities and findings.

FRAME’s Contact Group is an informal, varied network of professionals with NRM expertise from every corner of sub-Saharan Africa. The group:

- Provides intellectual leadership and peer review to FRAME.
- Links FRAME with influential policymakers across Africa.

FRAME’s Web site at www.frameweb.org connects you to a large and varied collection of NRM analyses and data. You may access it in English and in French.

FRAME

(continued from page 4)

Two other papers pointed to the environmental triggers for rural Africans' flight to the cities and discussed ways of **coping with the environmental crises posed by urbanization**. Suggestions included investing in urbanizing small towns, promoting a sense of town "ownership" in city dwellers, and capitalizing on the ways urban centers can stimulate higher farm productivity.

You can find many more details about the May meeting, including some interesting data unveiled there, by going to www.frameweb.org/frameatwork.html and clicking on Upcoming and Recent Events. FRAME findings and resources were also presented at the AEPS conference in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12–17 November 2000.



Elephants exemplify the public-vs.-private-goods dilemma in Africa.

STCP

(continued from page 2)

very riskiness into a significant opportunity that benefits the entire market.

The Organizational Unit: Farmer Associations. STCP's first priority is to organize farmer associations that will service farmers' needs on all levels, from village groups to trading companies. "With more access to training, credit, organized transport, and other benefits through these groups," says Hill, "we believe farmers will find ways to live sustainably, diversify their crops, and take more responsibility for improving crop quality."

"Associations will help farmers find new markets and get better prices for their products. They'll also be very useful for the manufacturers, who will be able to interact more directly with farmers."

Carrying out this extensive program across five countries will be a challenge. The general approach is to build on existing activities in each area, then add value to them and coordinate future collaborations.

Environmental Gains for the Region. In the long run, STCP may have far-reaching environmental benefits for the countries of West Africa. Sustainable tree crop systems – specifically shade-grown cocoa and coffee agroforests – will help in reforesting degraded lands. More biodiversity and healthier watersheds are other potential results.

In addition, tree crop systems sequester significant amounts of carbon. West African countries, communities

and households could conceivably end up with large carbon credits, in line with the Kyoto Summit.

With activities now underway in West Africa, STCP is taking steps to undertake parallel efforts in East Africa, where tree crops are important to many economies. To learn more about STCP, you can contact Jeff Hill at jhill@af-sd.org or one of the partners listed at the left.

Within USAID, major partners have been the Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria missions, the Africa Trade and Investment Policy (ATRIP) Program and the Global Bureau. Partners on the ground include ADCI/VOCA, CABI, Conservation International, Enterprise Works, IITA in Nigeria, and the U.S. Geological Service.

Taking Stock of NRM Progress

Meeting in an important NRM stock-taking workshop in Koudougou, Burkina Faso, in December 1999, 24 senior Sahelian professionals tracked changes in five NRM sectors over several decades. Of particular interest was their finding that in the past decade, many practitioners have begun to turn the recommendations of the 1989 Ségou NRM conference into reality, notably:

- More people are making more of their livelihoods from sustainable NRM.
- Biomass has increased in community-managed or protected areas.
- Various interventions have reduced water and wind erosion.
- Soil fertility has increased through agroforestry measures.
- Water management has improved.
- Populations have become more responsible managers of resources like common water points, community territories and pasture areas.
- National expertise in NRM is increasing.
- More resources are available for NRM programs.

NRM continued from page 3

THE JOB AHEAD

While these are promising developments, USAID needs to dramatically increase the rate at which people are adopting sustainable NRM methods. Two likely routes to faster progress are improved **information technology** and a higher rate of **Africa-based advocacy**. Here are specific examples of what USAID has already begun to do:



- Through the **AfricaLink** activity's work with the missions, more computers are being connected to the Internet.
- Through **improved satellite monitoring**, we are learning about changes in African land use, vegetation and demographics in far more detail and at far lower cost than before. For example, USAID Uganda is using this to monitor water-hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria.
- Through these Web sites and **support to networking groups** such as NESDA and the Environmental Information System, African professionals are connecting with their colleagues in Africa and abroad.
- Through **support to advocacy groups** like CEFDHAC in Central Africa, people are defending themselves and their resources from unsustainable use of forests, soil and water.

Seeing a clearer picture. Getting the message out. Building up energy for change. In making these things happen, USAID and partners are moving sustainable NRM in Africa to a whole new level.

USAID's experience in Botswana provides an example of how NRM has evolved in Africa.

1. Botswana changed from a directive, top-down approach focused on parks and reserves to an empowering approach that involved the community in prioritizing, planning and managing the resources.
2. There was a change in perspective whereby NRM work was integrated into rural economic growth rather than taking the form of isolated make-work efforts from which rural society received no tangible or lasting benefit. Examples of growth-oriented activities include trade in veldt products and joint ventures generating income from safaris.
3. Communities began to look at the broader environmental services offered from all their resources. They then established priorities based on the economic or social value that the resources offered. As a result, they now manage their resources as a landscape instead of as separate sub-sectors (forestry, wildlife, water).

For more complete information about the environment/NRM team's results review, see the online R4 Wrapup at
www.afr-sd.org/Presentations/2kr4wrapups/2kr4wrapup.htm