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Finding

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Findings Infobrief reports on Best Practice in ongoing operational, economic and sector work carried out by the World Bank and its member governments in the Africa Region. It is published monthly by the Knowledge Management and Learning Center on behalf of the Region.

The views expressed in this Infobrief are those of the author/s and should not be attributed to the World Bank Group.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT :

THE SAHELIAN OPERATIONAL REVIEW (SOR): STATUS REPORT II

Objective: To present brief summaries of 20 SOR-funded activities, the lessons learned, and a reflection on the overall experience. These activities largely consisted of studies, workshops and conferences.

Context: The Sahelian Operational Review 350%? a Bank-managed activity, funded by the Government of

Norway, that has been in existence since 1990. The objectives of the program were to accelerate the application of operational lessons from natural resources management projects and to seek better information to

improve environmental monitoring and reporting systems for such projects in the Sahel. The first twenty-

seven diverse activities were summarized in a previous report entitled Sahel Operational Review: Status and

lessons learned.

Lessons Learned

1. Environmental Policy and Monitoring
A well-researched strategy paper is a good basis for the development of a national plan. In Niger, the

World Bank's Country Environmental Strategy Paper (CESP) served well as a starting point for the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), developed in partnership with the government.

Financial resources are needed to expand opportunities for more public consultation and discussion while

developing environmental policy, as the case of Eritrea illustrates.

Environmental database development in Senegal shows that there is a need for long-term technical and

institutional support if environmental monitoring is going to be operational.

2. Dryland Management
There is need for a "new" approach signified by a more profound understanding of the rationality of traditional practices, greater reliance on local community institutions such as oral associations, more

extended and flexible programs, greater participation of all stakeholders in shaping the interventions, and the

provision of an enabling economic environment that provides market-driven incentives for change.

Views differ about the degree to which outside technology and assistance can actually improve upon traditional practices.

3. Community-based Natural Resources Management
Community involvement raises the chances of success, and decentralization of responsibility is

critical. There is an important role for government in providing information and training to local communities.

The study on park fees in Tanzania concluded that tourists would be willing to pay more for access to the

parks; in fact, fees could be raised to almost double the present revenue.

For more information on this specific study or copies, contact P.C. Mo'han, Rm. J5-1171, Knowledge Management and Learning Center, World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC, 20433. Tel. (202) 473-4114

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On analysis of different benefit distribution schemes to war-torn local communities indicated a preference

for community development projects as opposed to cash transfers.

4. Water Management

Seal: waterJesore s C be saved by incorporating water management into road construction, as was

illustrated in urban areas.

There is need to emphasize the appropriate use of incentives and user involvement in water management.

5. Forest Management

Positive results be achieved if we encourage the creativity of the private sector to

make use of forest products.

6. Fire Management

Current legislation banning burning is not only unenforceable, but also inappropriate, and should be re-

placed with a policy of controlled burning in most areas.

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For more information, contact Nina Chee, tel.no.: (202) 458-1327; e-mail: ncheeh@worldbank.org