

Partnerships WIRE



PARTNERSHIPS
for **SUSTAINABLE**
DEVELOPMENT

7 May 2008

CSD-16 Partnerships Fair

UNHQ, New York

**THEMATIC DISCUSSION:
PARTNERSHIP SOLUTIONS TO AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: WHAT TYPES OF
PARTNERSHIPS AND PARTNERS MAY AFRICA NEED?**



The CSD-16 Partnerships Fair continued with a discussion on what types of partnerships and partners may Africa need. Left photo (L-R) Kaddu K. Sebuya, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF); Melanie Santizo, Bureau Member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC). Right photo (L-R) Melanie Santizo, Bureau Member, GRULAC; Cosmas Gitta, UNDP; Dr. Abdallah Rattal, Government of Morocco.

The third thematic discussion session of the CSD-16 Partnerships Fair was opened by **Melanie Santizo** (Guatemala), Bureau Member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC). She indicated that the discussion session was specially designed to maximise opportunities for CSD participants to raise questions, identify challenges as well as look for innovative solutions, emerging possibilities and practical issues in addressing pressing development challenges in Africa using partnerships as a development tool.

Opening the discussion, **Dr. Abdallah Rattal**, Chief of the Division for Planning at the Ministry of Territory, Water and Environment of the Government of Morocco, emphasized the political will and commitment of the Moroccan Government to implement Agenda 21, the JPOI and the MDGs by putting into practice a series of programmes, initiatives and laws. He stressed the importance of the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), an ambitious initiative launched in 2005 as the most important programme in sustainable development in Morocco which could be considered a multistakeholder national partnership as it includes the

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Thursday, 8 May 2008

3pm - 5.30pm

Developing partnerships for agricultural innovation: the challenges

- ◆ Howarth Bouis, HarvestPlus, CGIAR
- ◆ Sally Bunning, Food and Agricultural Organization
- ◆ Dr. Sara Scherr, ECOAGRICULTURE
- ◆ Jennifer Vogel Bass, Rainforest Alliance



participation of the government, public institutions, local communities, NGOs, experts, beneficiaries, the private sector and international donors. INDH particularly addresses challenges in eradication of poverty, creation of jobs and income activities, access to basic services and infrastructures, as well as fighting exclusion and precariousness. **Dr. Rattal** continued by indicating the positive experience and lessons learned that Morocco has had in using partnerships in the implementation of National Sustainable Development Programmes, which are summarized in Table 1. Turning to the efforts that Morocco has devoted to increase its engagement in various partnership initiatives with African countries to improve the achievement of sustainable development objectives, **Dr. Rattal** emphasized initiatives related to training of human resources; exchange of

Table 1. Lessons learned at the national level in using partnerships initiatives, Dr. Abdullah Rattal

- ◆ Win-win possibilities achieved successfully by partners;
- ◆ Financial and human resources are used in a high level of efficiency;
- ◆ Objectives are achieved more easily than if the work is done by each partner separately;
- ◆ Capacities are better developed;
- ◆ Partnership initiatives create a dynamic that mobilize other stakeholders to do the same;
- ◆ The international cooperation is more encouraged to contribute when partnerships are conducted correctly.



Dr. Abdallah Rattal (left) of the Government of Morocco makes his presentation on “Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Africa”.

best practices, experiences and know-how, as well as strengthening of education, health, and energy, among others. **Dr. Rattal** concluded his presentation by offering some key advice on how to enhance partnerships in Africa:

- ◆ African countries have to capitalize on the good practices and successful stories in partnerships from Africa and other regions of the world;
- ◆ Developed countries have to enhance their contributions to initiate new partnerships in areas of high priority;
- ◆ Need to strengthen South-South cooperation.

African countries have to capitalize on the good practices and successful stories in partnerships from Africa and other regions of the world

Dr. Abdallah Rattal

Kaddu K. Sebunya, Director of Program for Technical Design of the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) a partner in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), began his presentation by outlining the vision of the AWF as working together with the people of Africa to ensure that African wildlife and wild lands will endure forever. The AWF brings this vision to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, which is an initiative with 34 partners seeking to reform forestry practices, promote economic development and improve governance. To achieve AWF’s vision, he indicated, several challenges have been identified which include land use practices, exploitation of wildlife species, human-wildlife conflict, invasive alien species, pollution and contaminants, climate change impacts, livelihoods and its relationships with economic growth.



Kaddu K. Sebunya of the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) makes his presentation on "Partnerships for Africa".

Mr. Sebunya continued to explain that five main strategies have been developed to address challenges which pertain mainly to initiatives in conservation of land, understanding and protecting species, creating conservation-friendly businesses, empowering people through education and training, as well as the importance to engage Governments. The partnership has also identified 12 landscapes with evident threats to conservation due to deforestation due to agricultural expansion and human settlements; commercial bush meat hunting/trade; inadequate agricultural policy/ lack of market access; unsustainable fishing practices; industrial logging (potential to resume commercial timber extraction). He stressed that the implementation of these strategies has greatly benefited from the support and expertise

bought into the partnership by key partners such as the D.R. Congo Government, US Government (USAID-CARPE, CARE International), Conservation International, Bonobo Conservation Initiative, Netherlands development organisation SNV, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), WorldFish Center, University of Maryland, US Fish and Wildlife Service, national NGOs and local communities, among others.

The CBFP, he indicated, also takes into account major agreements in the region such as the Central Africa Forestry Commission (COMIFAC) - Yaoundé Declaration signed by D.R. Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rep. of Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Chad.

The survival of Africa's extraordinary wildlife depends on the protection of large, living landscapes that sustain life and benefit people

Kaddu Sebunya

Table 2: Lessons Learnt, Kaddu Sebunya

- ◆ HCP process – initial scoping – setting project targets, threats and opportunities, prioritization, stakeholder participation;
- ◆ Consortium building and structure – synergistic composition / participatory;
- ◆ Ownership of the process by stakeholders;
- ◆ Communication strategy;
- ◆ Shared landscape vision, objectives and desired conditions;
- ◆ Spatial modeling and satellite imagery.

Turning to the issue of how South-South Partnerships (SSPs) could deliver on the pressing challenges facing Africa and help reduce poverty, armed conflicts and pandemic diseases, **Cosmas Gitta**, Chief of the Division for Policy of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation at the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP), opened his presentation describing the evolution of SSPs. He reminded the audience that the nature of SSPs for sustainable development that Africa needs are those partnerships that are based on the principles and aspirations of the founding fathers and mothers of the South-South movement in the 1950s and 1960s, which have inspired numerous South-South interactions relevant to sustainable development through actions to collectively voice



development needs, peer learning, technology exchanges and concerted action, particularly in addressing transnational development challenges.

Mr. Gitta indicated that greater benefits could result from partnering at an asystem's level, where more effective cooperation in the transfer and adaptation of policy systems, institutional capacities, planning frameworks, management experiences and the documentation of best practices among countries can take place. He gave the example of sharing the experience of Botswana in the management and effective use of mineral wealth. He continued on emphasizing that partner countries could create binational commissions to provide



Cosmas Gitta (centre), Chief of the Special United for South-South Cooperation in UNDP makes his presentation on "Partnership Solutions to Africa's development Challenges: What type of Partnership and Partners will Africa Need?".

It should be possible to create a peaceful and prosperous Africa on the wings of the emerging South-South revolution

Cosmos Gitta

continuous planning, promotion and monitoring of their joint efforts with the aim of setting their cooperation within a strategic framework that maximizes the benefits for both parties, reflects their specific needs, capacities, operating environments, as well as cultural and social contexts, and fully and properly involves relevant private and public stakeholders.

He highlighted that many southern providers of development assistance are switching from one-way collaborations to two-way collaborative arrangements, placing their cooperation programmes in the context of reciprocal learning and knowledge sharing with the countries they partner. Countries currently want to maximize complementarity with each other, regardless of the income level, and benefit from both outward transmission and inward reception of lessons learned.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Gitta turned to the issue of scaling up South-South Cooperation through broad-based partnerships, indicating that achieving broader involvement by national stakeholders from Governments, civil society and the private sector needs a comprehensive capacity assessment of expertise and institutions available for cooperation programs by sector, sub-sector, cross-sectoral and thematic areas. This assessment should look at both supply and demand for existing areas of cooperation that warrant expansion and for possible new initiatives that could be launched. Mr. Gitta gave the example of Thailand, which has identified nine specific areas for cooperation with neighbors and other developing countries.

Table 3: Key points in advancing South-South partnerships

- ◆ Middle-income countries in Africa should take a more pivotal role in South-South cooperation where they can offer valuable expertise;
- ◆ The goal is to move from one-way to two-way collaborative arrangements to inspire reciprocal learning.;
- ◆ Partner countries could create binational commissions to provide continuous planning, promotion and monitoring of their joint efforts;
- ◆ Greater benefits could result from partnering at an asystem's level, where more effective cooperation can take place.



Jay Benforado (left) from the U.S. Department of State introducing the training session **Building effective partnership programs for sustainability**. The first part of the session was delivered by Stephen D. Sylvan (third from left).

TRAINING SESSION

The Government of the United States kindly sponsored a training session on **Building effective partnership programs for sustainability**. This highly interactive and dynamic session provided CSD participants with very valuable tools, resources, examples and practical experiences on establishing, developing and maintaining effective partnerships. It also highlighted the challenges and benefits/incentives of using partnerships as collaborative mechanisms or models for more effective delivery of goals and objectives, involving a diverse group of stakeholders.

The three hour training session offered participants the opportunity to learn from and ask questions to several experts addressing the following issues:

Fundamentals in Design & Operation of Effective Partnership Programs, by Stephan D. Sylvan, Partnership Programs Coordinator, National Center for Environmental Innovation, U.S. EPA, who identified four important ingredients in the “secret sauce” for effective partnership programs: building an entrepreneurial, outwardly-focused, partnership-centered team; defining the problem and measures of success; selecting target audience through a process to maximize leveraging potential; and develop a strong partner-centered value proposition.

Partnerships require all kinds of people possessing different skills

Stephen Sylvan

The second part of the training session **“Sustainable Development Partnerships, What Have We Learned?”**, which took the form of a Panel Discussion was moderated by Jay Benforado, U.S. Department of State, and featured Stephan D. Sylvan, from U.S. EPA, in addition to:

Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section, UNECE who addressed the importance of public-private partnerships in meeting the challenge of sustainable development and the complexity, principles, evolutionary phases and success factors in establishing these initiatives as well as the need for the UN to do better in making partnerships work;

Dr. Patricia Solís, Director of Research and Outreach, Association of American Geographers, who described the practical experiences and lessons learned of the work of the CSD registered partnership My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development (MyCOE), in particular the value of engaging students in using the tools and concepts of geography to make their communities more sustainable as well as fostering critical thinking and stewardship by youth around the world;

Mr. Derek Vollmer, Associate Program Officer, Science and Technology for Sustainability Program, The National Academies who illustrated the analytical work being conducted at The National

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Not every partnership needs to be scaled-up or replicated

Derek Vollmer

Academies in regards to partnerships case studies, partnerships typology, critical issues in getting started, on co-production and on sustainability as well as the important role of science in supporting partnerships. Please refer to the CSD 16 Partnerships Fair Online Schedule for expanded information on this training session

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/PF/PF_programme.htm

Speakers from the training session (L-R): Derek Vollmer, The National Academies; Jay Benforado (Moderator) U.S. Department of State; Dr. Patricia Solís, Association of American Geographers; Stephan Sylvan, U.S. Environment Protection Agency; Geoffrey Hamilton, UNECE.



The following partnerships had an Information Desk at the Partnerships Fair, CSD-16

- ◆ COMPETE
- ◆ Médiaterre

Participation up-date:
44 participants attended today's
thematic discussion

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Key points highlighted during the session

- ◆ Governments need to make formal institutional arrangements to manage and promote South-South Cooperation;
- ◆ It is important to move from one way to two-way collaborative arrangements of South-South Cooperation;
- ◆ In moving towards the establishment of a broad-based partnership, a comprehensive capacity assessment of expertise and institutions available for cooperation should be conducted;
- ◆ Partnerships are a valuable resource in the implementation of National Sustainable development Strategies;
- ◆ The African countries have to capitalize on the good practices and successful stories in partnerships from Africa and other regions of the world;
- ◆ Developed countries have to enhance their contributions to initiate new partnerships in areas of high priority.