



afrialliance socialinnovation

Collective Catchment management Strategy

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DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

A catchment is an area with hydrologically similar conditions which drains to a common point. It can be located in a single geographical boundary or more geographical boundaries.

Human activities from wherever they are undertaken on a given catchment have an impact on the water resources of that given area and beyond. These impacts can be negative in terms of air, water and land pollution, deterioration of ecosystem livelihood consequently affecting human life or positive in terms of ecosystem conservation, afforestation, reforestation, improved farming methods, sustainable energy use, improved wellbeing depending on the type of activity. In the end, all these have a contribution to the climate variability.

Once these activities are not regulated, the negative impacts can end up being a problem to the entire catchment for instance in terms of increased costs of drinking water treatment, limited ground water recharge, reduced stream/river flows etcetera. Therefore, it is everyone's responsible to ensure that their activities don't negatively affect the environment.

There is need to engage masses in order to let them understand what impacts their activities may have on the entire catchment. Co-elaboration of catchment management approaches helps to make community interests, demands and concerns explicit, while establishing shared definitions and common ambitions and understandings towards solutions.

There is need for the administrative institutions to guide their communities on the proper utilization of the various portions of their catchments for sustainability.

This can be done by identifying the most suitable activities which need to be conducted in specific areas of the catchment and facilitate the implementation thereafter.

Community members however need to be engaged to choose from the wide range of options presented to them. This will not only help in facilitating adoptability but as well minimize possibilities of rejection due to the contradictions in beliefs and cultural practices that may arise due to shallow consultation.

AfriAlliance MOOC#2 Final Assignment

Abstract

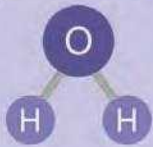
Collective catchment management strategy entails communal contribution to the sustainable management of the catchment to curb the negative impacts of our activities.

Proper governance structures should be in place to ensure the right procedure is followed in coming up with the plan.

Capacity development should be undertaken to ensure that communities are well endowed with the necessary knowledge, skills and resources to undertake the plan.

Various technologies ranging from ecosystem identification, monitoring, and review to assess the efficacy of the different components should be employed.

A clear business road map should be studied and followed to ensure that all the dimensions of social innovation are well linked



TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Catchment management doesn't require complex technologies but rather mutual understandings between implementing parties.

Ecosystem Identification: This can be done onsite in conjunction with remote identification using specialized software like GIS. Through this activity, communities in the catchment are able to understand the composition of their catchment in terms of say water sources, forests, different species, soils etcetera. This guide and informs decisions on the right management patterns. The contribution of each identified element to the wellbeing of the ecosystem should be communicated to the catchment communities to create the urgency and need for proper management.

Ecosystem monitoring: Through this communities are assigned duties and responsibilities to manage and look after the ecosystems in their specific geographical locations. This minimizes management costs and creates love for the management since the respective communities will fear shame should the ecosystem element be lost due to their irresponsibility or mismanagement.

Periodic review plans: Reviews can be conducted in agreed intervals where all communities in a given catchment come together to look at how far each of the respective communities has gone with the management of their ecosystem elements. Through this, catchment management strategies can be reviewed accordingly.

Management Equipment: Various equipment can be incorporated in the management depending on type of ecosystem managed. For instance, gauge stations for rivers and streams, water quality monitoring equipment among others depending on the element.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



Capacity development is key in ensuring that the catchment management communities receive the right guidance in the implementation process.

Community Catchment management teams should be set up to ensure that the communities are guided on the implementation. These should also be responsible to ensure that the right activities are undertaken in the right spots of the catchment.

Communities should be sensitized on the catchment management technologies proposed. This will ensure quality data is obtained and the right management practices are implemented. Just like WHO insists that people must be trained to do analyses themselves but also to understand the data and to maintain the technologies implemented in their community. This entails sensitization of the communities on the need for the catchment management plan.

Utilization of higher learning institutions like universities to foster research and understanding of the catchment is a key element of capacity development. This will lead to achieving quality measures at minimum costs.

Organizing workshops at catchment level for knowledge- sharing and training for managers and policy makers on the systemic-relational approach to catchment management. This would include the ethical approach to integrated, fair and sustainable catchment management.

SOCIAL INNOVATION



GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

Proper governance structures are required to ensure that proper resolutions are mutually reached at and implemented as agreed.

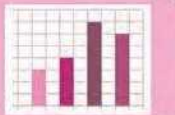
Come up with Catchment management Plans: Governance institutions should ensure that right procedures are undertaken in coming up with mutually acceptable catchment management plans. These plans should strike a balance between ecosystem conservation and as well not compromise the community beliefs and culture. The process should incorporate all the relevant stakeholders at all levels.

Ensure implementation: These structures should ensure that the catchment management plan is implemented under the set guidelines. Where the communities are constrained in implementation say in terms of financing or equipment, the governance institutions should come in to support the implementation. Timely reviews should as well be conducted to assess the efficacy of the plan.

Follow up: Implementing a catchment management plan may sometimes be hard to some members of the community. This is because it may not be easily possible to get all the community members concur with the plan. However, governance structures should go ahead to ensure that these minority elements don't compromise the plan.

Mobilize Resources: Governance structures should ensure that the necessary funding and equipment is available in the respective communities to ensure smooth implementation of the catchment management plan. It should source and attract all relevant support structures in terms of investors, researchers, to ensure steady progress.

BUSINESS ROAD MAP



This dimension should ensure all the dimensions of social innovation are interlinked.

We should ensure that the catchment management plan contributes to the improvement of the socio-economic well being of the respective communities.

The management activities can be selected in a way that they attract investors and community financial support to ensure smooth implementation.

This should be in such a way that the resources required can be locally produced thereby contributing to the incomes of the societies thus improve standard of living.

The catchment management plan should not compromise the business development patterns of the catchment communities. It should however contribute to the development of the communities' economic environs.

The governance structures should be able to mobilize the required resources to facilitate capacity development and general implementation of the plan

Human activities from wherever they are undertaken on a given catchment have an impact on the water resources of that given area and beyond. These impacts can be negative (air, water and land pollution) or positive (ecosystem conservation, improved wellbeing) depending on the type of activity. In the end, all these have a contribution to the climate variability.

Governance structures should be put in place to manage and regulate the activities conducted in the catchment areas. These should guide and oversee the choice of the plan, its adaptation and implementation.

It should be supportive in the implementation through provision of the necessary knowledge, funding and equipment.

Capacity development through sensitization of the communities should be undertaken to ensure the right procedure is followed in undertaking the implementation. This should also be relied on in terms of enforcing the catchment management plan.

Technological solutions ranging from ecosystem identification, ecosystem monitoring, periodic reviews should be considered vital for achieving a proper catchment management plan. We should ensure that the catchment management plan contributes to the improvement of the socio-economic well being of the respective communities.

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