Lessons learned from the Sustainable Land Management Project in Grenada

Author: Hanneke den Hartogh
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Background

Grenada (Caribbean) faces an increasing pressure on natural resources due to population growth. This results in loss of biodiversity and land degradation, which increases risk on poverty, food insecurity and susceptibility for hurricanes. This susceptibility is shown by the impact of the hurricane Ivan (2004); agricultural export reduced with 50%, and GDP was damaged by 200%.1

In order to tackle these negative developments, to reach sustainable development, and to implement the needs identified in the NAP of the UNCCD, a Sustainable Land Management Project is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture from 2009 till the end of 2012, in cooperation with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).2,3,4

Objective

To get insight into the effectiveness and sustainability of the SLM project and the needs for the future.

Figure 1. Land Degradation in Grenada (source 2)

Results

Project activities
The project framework and goals were developed together with the NGO GRENCODA (5,6). The focus is on agriculture and construction6-45). The 4 main activities are 3,4,5:

– Policy review to strengthen context for SLM3,7
– Set up of monitoring and evaluation system for LD and SLM (Grenada Land Information System; GLIS)8
– Awareness raising and providing knowledge regarding LD and SLM3,4,5
– Implementation of SLM interventions5

Projects results
Although the project is not finished yet, there are some results already.

– Mainstreaming of policies3,5: Physical Development and Control Act 2002 is changed: Free development is reduced by the set up of a mandatory permission for new constructions8.
– The data collected in and development of LD and SLM monitoring system3
– Awareness raising and increasing knowledge regarding LD and SLM3,4,5

Discussion

Strong
– Application of UNCCD in concrete action at field level
– Policy review to strengthen context for SLM
– Raising awareness and knowledge creates context for bottom up action
– Impact on knowledge regarding LD and SLM will be monitored
– Set up of monitoring system for LD and SLM (GLIS)

Weak
– The project will end in 201220
– Some outcomes implemented weakly
– Does not provide long term support15
– Limited number of interventions taken15
– Only 1 NGO, GRENCODA3,4, is involved really, but not the farmer associations4,6,7, Agency for Reconstruction and Development14, nor Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs8
– Top down approach15 reduces the connection with population and their willingness to invest in SLM.
– Slow donor promises delay implementation of interventions. This reduces the long term impact, because the problem changed, and distrust raised.
– Data collected with advanced technology is time and money consuming. This reduces the resources available for interventions, but created the monitoring system which supports decision-making. Therefore, the division of resources over data collection and executing interventions is a point of discussion.

Recommendations

– Long term impact of SLM on Grenada is threatened by lack of long term support, limited participation of population, top down approach, slow donor promises, and slow implementation of interventions
– A follow-up project is required to reach long term impact. This project should deepen the impact of this project, continue, and finish work not finished yet.

References

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14. Project limitations

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