Community-Based Management: Trade-offs between sustainability and development

M. Mar Delgado∗1, Pablo Ramos∗2, Roberto Escalante3, and Francisco Chapela4

1UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA (UCO) – Campus de Rabanales, C5 planta 3a 14071 CORDOBA, Spain
2PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA – Colombia
3UNAM – Mexico
4ERA – Mexico

Abstract

Community-Based Management of Natural Resources approach has been often considered as a suitable approach to govern commons. It seeks to establish a direct linkage between conservation and local benefits: involving local communities in conservation is often used as a means of making conservation measures less likely to meet local resistance. Conversely, protecting the productivity of a resource may be used as a means to enhance local livelihoods and development options.

However, the application of CBMNR principles does not simply lead to harmonise development and conservation. A current main concern is how to link nature conservation and economic welfare, how to ensure that local people reap the benefit of their own management actions. The economic and social incentives to keep sustainable practices are irrelevant. Furthermore, quite often government policies run against sustainable socio-environmental practices: the system of payment for ecosystem services restricts production in these areas and pays extremely low prices compared to the benefits provided by these environmental services.

The trade-offs between sustainability and socio-economic development in the three COMET-LA Case Studies dealing with environmental challenges: the management of water and biodiversity, the management of forest and land use and the management of marine and coastal areas, will be presented. The different strategies of local stakeholders to face local, national and international settings are analysed and how they contribute to make the areas more resilient or vulnerable is highlighted.

Keywords: trade-offs, community engagement, livelihood, sustainable development

∗Speaker