



environment and tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LESSON LEARNING PROCESS

Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Programme

Background

The Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEAT) provides national leadership for promoting sustainable coastal development in South Africa. This is primarily achieved through Coastcare, a partnership programme involving the private and public sectors. The policy guiding this joint initiative is presented in the White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development in South Africa. Coastcare aims for:

1. Coastal economic development that makes the most of available resources;
2. Coastal development that promotes social equity through improved livelihoods of poor coastal communities; and
3. A healthy coastal environment for the benefit of current and future generations

The Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Programme (SCLP) is a major initiative of Coastcare, led by DEAT

and partnered with provincial governments, and is funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). A key component of SCLP is financial support for projects at the provincial provincial and local levels that promote improved livelihoods for poor coastal communities.

With input from stakeholders and specialist studies, key intervention areas in each coastal province that support this objective have been identified and Implementing Agents (IAs) have been appointed to implement projects identified through a public call for proposals. SCLP has a total of 15 projects at various stages of implementation. The African Institute for Community Driven Development (AICDD) has been commissioned to assist DEAT in learning and communicating the lessons from the SCLP, notably around the projects.

Purpose of the lesson-learning process

The purpose is to assist DEAT and other interested parties to learn from the experience of current projects in coastal poverty reduction and so improve the development of sound evidence-based coastal policies, strategies and implementation.

The lesson learning process is focussing on both:

1. The process of establishing and implementing coastal interventions to improve poor people's livelihoods; and
2. The implications of the lessons for informing policy.

Key components of the lesson-learning process

- 1: Ensuring DEAT & Provincial Lead Departments are clear on the implications of the lessons learned from SCLP projects for the promotion of sustainable coastal development.**
- 2: Lessons from SCLP projects analysed, and understood by provincial stakeholders.**

This builds on the current monitoring and evaluation mechanisms SCLP has established, working with the provinces and those directly involved in project implementation. Lessons are being learned and analysed from and among projects. These cover improving coastal development inter-

ventions - both improved implementation, and policy & strategy development.

- 3: Broader stakeholders aware of lessons from SCLP Projects and their implications for sustainable coastal development.**

This involves preparing a communication strategy, development of communication materials and dissemination of these. The communication strategy focuses on the learning events and includes written outputs that will be disseminated to SCLP stakeholders, but also more widely to other interested parties.



Approach and Methodology

The learning process action is a research and learning process, working and learning with SCLP and its stakeholders, rather than an extractive research exercise merely generating written reports and documents. AICDD's role is to:

- Collate, build on and generate information and

lessons from the projects; and

- Create the spaces, platforms and strategies for learning and sharing of these lessons, and their implications for policy and implementation among SCLP leadership and stakeholders.

Learning activities

These have been carried out in three phases from September 2004 until July 2005:

Phase 1: Inception phase – September to November 2004

- Collating and reviewing available lesson learning data and documentation that has emerged from SCLP;
- Ensuring SCLP leadership and stakeholders are in agreement with the plan for the process;
- Ensuring appropriate accounting, administrative, and financial procedures are in place;
- Developing the communication strategy and initial communication with partners initiated;
- Carrying out initial project visits and developing a comprehensive research framework;
- Ensuring the AICDD process team is working efficiently and effectively.

Phase 2: Lesson-learning phase – Dec 2004 – July 2005

- Conducting a pilot research visit to a project with the whole AICDD Team;
- Implementing the communication and influencing strategy;
- Visiting each project as part of the research process to investigate and review the issues emerging and learnings (Jan – April 05) and writing up the learnings;
- Workshopping with the SCLP Leadership Panel – December, January, March and June;
- Developing a synthesis document of lesson learned and recommendations for policy and implementation; and
- Conducting a final lesson-learning workshop (July 2005).

Phase 3: Taking forward recommendations in partnership with stakeholders – August 2005+

Benefits to stakeholders from participating in the lesson-learning

- provide an opportunity for stakeholders to identify constraints affecting implementation of coastal initiatives;
- provide guidance to procedures and practices needed to promote effective implementation of projects funded from various sources;

- build participants' capacity and skills in socio-economic development in coastal zones;
- inform IDPs, PGDPs and other strategic planning processes;

This should result in coastal projects being more sustainable and having greater impact.

The lesson-learning team

An external team from AICDD is supporting DEAT to July 2005, with James Carnegie the Team Leader. There are two Field Researchers covering the provinces of KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Western and Northern Cape. Ian Goldman is

assisting on the communication strategy. The Team Leader reports to the Deputy Director: Sustainable Livelihoods & Socio-economic Development (DEAT), and the SCLP Leadership Panel.

For further information on this lesson-learning process, contact:

Janette du Toit, DEAT • Telephone: 021 402 3558, E-mail: Jdutoit@deat.gov.za

James Carnegie, AICDD • Telephone: 083 555 5053, E-mail: james@AICDD.co.za

