Conservation as a Priority in the Poverty Reduction Strategies

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Outline

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) – what are they?
- Environmental mainstreaming – how can we measure it?
- Conservation priorities – some good practice examples

Principles for PRSPs

- Country owned
- Comprehensive
- Medium term
- Participatory

Priorities

- Poverty and macroeconomic assessment
- Programmatic approach in the medium term
- Monitoring based on targets and indicators
**Process**

- Participatory priority setting & implementation
- Internal and external partnerships
- Disclosure and dissemination
- Follow up with strategic assistance – Poverty Reduction Support Credit (World Bank), Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (IMF)

**Progress**

- Initiated in 1999 for HIPC and IDA countries
- 49 Countries prepared PRSPs so far
  - 30 Full PRSPs
  - 19 Interim PRSPs
  - 7 Implementation Progress Reports
- Environment priorities scored on 17 criteria (conservation aspects covered in 8 criteria)
- Scale 0 to 3 (0= no mention; 3= good practice)

**Findings**

- **Overall environmental mainstreaming**
  - Significant variation: 0.3 – 2.4
  - Average score low: 1.2
  - Full PRSPs rank high
  - Variation continues in the progress reports
- **Conservation priorities**
  - 16 out of 49 PRSPs discuss issues biodiversity and conservation
  - 3 Countries present information relating to area under protection. Only Zambia PRSP presents target for PA

**Progress on Protected area in PRSP Countries**

- There is clear trend towards increase in land area protected in PRSP countries
- Probable drivers – convention on biological diversity, GEF and donor agency financing, community based management, improved policy & capacity of countries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1999</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standard Deviation</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Countries</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Though land area protected in PRSP countries has increased significantly during 1990-99, it is lower than the 9.5 percent of land area protected globally.

The nature of protection also varies significantly across countries.

- Zambia
- Ghana
- Cambodia
- Mozambique
- Sri Lanka

### Conservation in Practice: Issues in Zambia PRSP

- 33% land area protected: 19 National Parks and 34 Game Management Areas
- Zambia Wildlife Authority Act 1998 to support community management of Game Areas - weak implementation
- International tourist revenue grew from US 46.7 million in 1995 to US 91.2 million in 2000
- Unrealized eco-tourism potential
- Most land under customary tenure, limited progress on land tenure & titling

### Conservation in Practice: Actions Proposed in Zambia PRSP

- Increase the area under protection to 40% by 2004
- Improve eco-tourism potential in Livingstone and Victoria Falls, Kafue NP, Lower Zambezi NP, Luangwa NP zones
- Strengthening the implementation of CBNRM program
- Provincial Forestry Action Program to promote community participation in sustainable forestry management
- Environmental Council of Zambia Program to support sustainable use of wildlife resources
- Administration and Management Design Program (ADMADE) for capacity development in game areas
## Conservation in Practice: Issues in Sri Lanka PRSP

- 28% of land area is under forests and 13% of land area in PAs
- 55% of the coast eroded & the annual coastal erosion of 0.5 million sq.m. limit fishing and berthing facilities
- Deforestation 1.5 % p.a. related to population growth and demands on forest resources
- Unsustainable natural resource use is estimated at 2.5% of GDP

## Conservation in Practice: Actions Proposed in Sri Lanka PRSP

- Amendment to Fisheries Aquatic Resource Act for community based reef management
- Coastal zone management plan to protect reefs and improve water exchange in lagoons
- National fisheries development program to modernize the technology and surveillance systems
- Promotion of integrated forest resource management involving NGOs, and CBOs
- Buffer zone development, eco-tourism development, and revenue sharing with CBOs
- Introduction of transferable water entitlements and effective river basin management involving stakeholders
- Implementation of biosafety and quarantine regulations

## Summary

- PRSPs have become key instruments in economic planning
- Uneven record of integrating environment
- Conservation priorities are often marginal
- Opportunity to capture for environmentalists!