Community Empowerment through Public Participation Process

Dr. Caroline A. Ouko (Ph.D.)- CETRAD
Dr. Margaret A. Owuor (Ph.D.)- South Eastern Kenya University
Caroline Ouko - Work Ecosystem
Outline

- Introduction: Background
- Study area
- Objectives
- Public participation ladder
- Public participation process
- Video
Kenya

- Independence: 12th December 1963
- Ethnic groups: 43
- Area: 592000 Km²
- Location: 5° north & 5° south & between longitudes 34° & 42° east
- Altitude: variable from 0 to 5000m above sea level
- Climate (equator, topography, Indian ocean, ITCZ, habitat & ecology)
- Economy: heavily rely on natural resources: forests
Study Area: Akara Hills

- Located in Siaya County, Alego South Central Ward
- Catchment area for Lake Kanyaboli, an Oxbow lake home to the Sitatunga, the haplochromine fish species
- Neighbours the Yala swamp-papyrus swamp; which is a habitat for the yellow warbler
Threats facing Akara Hills
Consequences of degradation

Siltation

Erosion

Swamp drying
Why IAP2 2018?

• Capacity strengthening and empowerment of communities is an integral part of almost all sustainable development initiatives.

• Research carried out in Kenya highlights the need for inspiring and influencing communities living adjacent to natural resources to engage in conservation and management for their wellbeing.

• Studies show that through public participation and inclusion communities get empowered
Objectives

- To describe and recognize the steps involving community members in public participation
- To demonstrate the challenges facing natural resources conservation and what roles the community plays
- To identify and select appropriate strategies to improve co-management and community participation.
Video of Akara Hills and Community involvement

• [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52cJM5ZwOc4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52cJM5ZwOc4)
Public Participation - Main Components and Processes

- Citizen Control
- Delegated Power
- Partnership
- Placation
- Consultation
- Information
- Therapy
- Manipulation

Sherry Arnstein Ladder of Participation (1969)

Empower
Collaborate
Involve
Consult
Inform

IAPP Spectrum of Public Participation (2000)

Active Participation
Consultation
Information

OECD Government-Citizen Relations (2001)

Citizen Control/Self-Motivated Development
Partnership/Interactive Participation
Consultation/Functional Participation Level
Information/Passive Participation Level
Welfare/No Participation Level

CETRAD Empowerment Ladder (2015)
The CETRAD Ladder: **Steps and features**

**At the non-participation (welfare) level**

- All decisions are made by the external development agencies and other external stakeholders with little or no information flow to the beneficiaries;

- In the early 90s Akara community was characterized by a severely inadequate community support infrastructure;

- Politicians and other stakeholders used activities initiated in the community for their own interest;

- There is no inclusion of the community in any aspect and when it happens, it is highly selective, taking advantage of the heavily constrained community organization in the concerned villages;

- The community has no vision and no community governance structures are in place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizen Control/Self-Motivated Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnership/Interactive Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation/Functional Participation Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information/Passive Participation Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare/No Participation Level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CETRAD Empowerment Ladder (2015)
The CETRAD Ladder: **Steps and features**

At the **passive participation (information) level**

- Inadequate inclusion of the community in decision making processes, project planning and implementation.
- There is only one way information flow from implementing organization(s) to the beneficiary community.
- Community has constrained decision making capabilities and inadequate networks.
- Forest Act 2005 and the Kenyan constitution led to Akara community being marginally involved but they were poorly organized and faced with considerable financial and governance challenges.
- Area is generally characterized by inadequate community support infrastructure and largely depends on external funding.
The CETRAD Ladder: **Steps and features**

**At the functional participation (consultation) level**

- The community exhibits assisted capability of decision making, and has some support infrastructure.
- There is only one way information flow from implementing agency to the community; nevertheless providing an opportunity for feedback.
- Most activities are planned and executed with adequate inclusion of stakeholders.
- The community has a good level of organization with somewhat adequate funding and satisfactory governance, allowing considerable resources to enable contributory funding.
- The community is fairly networked although depended on external support (the network thrives on external support).
The CETRAD Ladder: Steps and features

At the interactive participation (partnership) level,

- There is adequate consultation, supported by a well-functioning feedback to the community.
- The community has adequate networks, adequate support infrastructure and sufficient decision making capabilities in collaboration with development stakeholders, making it possible to achieve sufficient inclusion of all relevant stakeholders.
- Capacity to co-finance development projects and programs.
- Joint implementation and equal participation.
- Akara community is empowered via public participation and is at this stage
The CETRAD Ladder: **Steps and features**

**At the Self-motivated development**

- There is two way information flow and wide inclusion of stakeholders.
- The community makes independent decisions;
- The community has sufficient community support infrastructure, and;
- The community maintains an elaborate network;
- Community organization is autonomous, well-funded and well governed;
- This level of organization and sound governance enables the community to accumulate funding for development without external funding.
ASANTE SANA
THANK YOU
Challenges

Information alone may not necessarily lead to behavior change...
How community work will proceed post COVID-19 as it requires gatherings and face to face participation?