

### Appendix 3. Case outcomes

#### INCLUSION, COLLABORATION AND TRUST

Active involvement of local governments in the Oromia MSP has strengthened inter-sectoral coordination and rule enforcement in the ecoregion. Before establishment of the MSP, local administrative bodies and agencies responsible for health or irrigation development had no direct working relationship, such as planning and implementation of interventions. FARM Africa and PCI among other NGOs have worked alongside the government on such issues, focusing on conservation and economic development. There is also an agricultural cluster of experts that include the irrigation, water and energy, land administration, environmental protection offices, and the cooperative promotion agency. The result is a clear commitment from government to multi-sector collaboration on land use and land-use change issues.

In Chemba, the MSP also cut across divisions between government sectors, and provided a space for actors with different responsibilities in land governance to come together and engage. Land councils established in 45 villages, creating space for otherwise marginalized groups to contribute to decision making on land use and management. The MSP built confidence between local communities and local authorities, reducing mistrust. As one village leader said:

*“The [Chemba] MSP is a bridge that connects villagers at the grassroots level with high decision makers. It helps the village authority to understand their responsibilities on land issues better.”*

Over time, the government took more responsibility in convening and leading the MSP, helping to institutionalize it as a forum for dialogue and action. The MSP has subsequently been replicated in other districts.

In Pará, the MSP enhanced multi-stakeholder dialogue between the private sector, government institutions, NGOs and the Public Ministry Service—groups that rarely coordinated previously. This produced a reorganized rural cadaster (environmental register) better addressing municipal contexts and priorities. But grassroots organizations and communities report being excluded from the process, resulting in much more critical assessments of progress from the perspectives of these groups.

In Gujarat, continuous participation in the MSP improved cooperation between different actors, particularly between various government agencies and village federations, especially as the MSP gained recognition and secured participation of higher-level officials such as state ministers. This also enabled local communities to raise livelihood issues related to the environmental commons on issues such as water allocation and access. Because FES, the supporting NGO, has been active within Gujarat for years, their previous commitment played a role in fostering trust among the community members. This also enabled FES to convene different actors and reduce community skepticism towards government officials and vice versa.

Conversely in Odisha, after years of participating in the MSP led jointly by the communities and their NGO supporter, the district administration and agriculture department adopted the responsibility of organizing and convening it and replicating the model in other districts.

Previously, local federations had displayed agency in organizing the MSP events, including preparing the agenda to highlight priorities concerning resource trends, livelihoods and community rights, which enabled significant peer-to-peer learning among communities. The new arrangement gave official recognition to the platform to set the official block development agenda. Yet, communities' roles were reduced from organizers to invitees, which poses a potential risk to local voice and agency.

Roundtables were organized around specific issues in Madre de Dios, such as the construction of a road across the communal reserve. Participants appreciated the MSP's success addressing actors' divergent points of view, enabling them to discuss and reach agreements. However, the lack of interest and participation from different sectors in the subnational and national governments hindered the effectiveness of the MSP. By contrast, the Tana-Kipini MSP has provided an important link among transboundary communities, enabling diverse groupings in terms of tribe, clans, interests and areas and nationalities to sustain a dialogue on environmental sustainability and livelihoods. The MSP is recognized for helping to build institutional capacity through its members representing various stakeholder groups and sectors at different levels, fostering engagement in decision making around transboundary issues.

### **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

In the case of Tana-Kipini, in a region with a history of violent civil conflict, the dialogue process presented opportunities for communities to move beyond disputes over resource use and management, moving towards a more collaborative vision involving cross-border trade and development. The MSP has been active for only a few years but has initiated peaceful dialogues joining Somali and Kenyan counterparts. At the onset of the project, mistrust was such that it was not possible to link the different partner ministries in joint management of the project. However, once the multi-stakeholder formation process was implemented at cluster level, different sector partners were able to relate better through specific activities jointly undertaken. The platform has now developed an action plan to ensure continuity of planned activities. Improved working relationships among MSP members has accelerated project implementation, and generated ripple effects beyond the initial biodiversity agenda. Some of the spinoffs were increased internal and cross-regional trade, and the revival of cottage industries such as honey production and horticulture.

In Madre de Dios, the establishment of the platform was itself a significant achievement, after 12 years of convening attempts that were hindered by conflicts. Interviews with MSP participants revealed that a positive outcome has been the MSP's function in resolving conflicts in the communal reserve. The platform established dialogue roundtables for conflictive situations, such as the construction of a road across part of the reserve's buffer zone. This goes beyond what is mandated by law, but most participants agree that the resolution of conflicts is a vital role for the MSP. Interviewed participants appreciated the MSP's success in addressing divergent points of view that actors may have had, who were able to meet, discuss and reach agreements. Nevertheless, some respondents noted that the actions of the MSP and the co-management of the communal reserve in general benefitted some communities more than others, and that principally its approach failed to address long-standing inequities or positively impact their livelihoods.

The Chemba MSP was instrumental in resolving more local conflicts between land users. For example, a conflict existed between Handa village and Swagaswaga Game reserve was addressed by amending the Game reserve boundaries, returning part of the terrain to the village. Not only did this resolve the conflict but it gave the actors greater insight and

understanding of their (at the time) opposing parties, helping to build greater trust and solidarity between them. In addition, most of the villages established village land councils for resolving local land conflicts, following the commitments made during MSP meetings. As one participant said:

*“To me, the MSP has been an eye opener. In the beginning I did not know how to deal with land use conflicts, how to address the issues, whom to talk to, but after the MSP I now know whom to talk to and where to go. As for my organization, the MSP has helped us to be recognized in the district where, otherwise, we would not be known.”*

However, the platform failed to resolve the conflict between pastoralists and farmers in some areas involved in the joint village land use planning, such as the Lahaki villages. Participants cite district leaders’ lack of clear vision, understanding, neutrality, and willingness to resolve the issue.

The Chemba MSP also took up the complex issue of women’s land ownership and access rights, promoting more equitable distribution and access to resources and helping to avert potential localized conflict. Village communities’ understanding of gender issues has improved, including that gender equality is a responsibility of both men and women. As a result, gender issues are now included in local development plans. The MSP has assisted women to retain family assets after death of their husband, or in times of separation or divorce. Land inheritance laws have also been discussed; as there is no single law on inheritance in Tanzania, the MSP provided advice on relevant legislation.

In the two Brazilian cases, conflict management efforts were more limited. The Acre forum was activated specifically to agree a plan for ecological and economic zoning, seen as essential because of historical conflicts over land and natural resources. While efforts were made to cultivate the notion of *florestania* or ‘forest citizenship’, less attention was paid to monitoring compliance with the plan or resolving subsequent disputes. In the case of Pará, the focus was on negotiations between the private sector and various government bodies at state and municipal levels. Grassroots communities and organizations were excluded from participating, however, and found challenges to access the land registry supported by the forum, which increased conflicts and uncertainty over access to land, cited as an ongoing driver of deforestation.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR CONSERVATION**

The Pará program is described by its participants as having sophisticated and integrated mechanisms to combat deforestation, which led to five out of 17 municipalities being removed from the national blacklist of most deforesting municipalities. MSP participants and non-participants noted that at least part of the reduction in deforestation rates can be attributed to the MSP, and in particular collective action by political and economic elites (but excluding indigenous and local communities). Another portion is attributed to the state’s command and control measures, including increased enforcement activity. Participants noted that this was because activities were tailored to each municipality’s context. However, a fundamental flaw is that it failed to address the regularization of collective territories for indigenous peoples. NGOs and local non-participants noted that the land issue and the need for a fair and organized agrarian reform in the Amazon remains critical to address the root causes of deforestation.

In Gujarat and Odisha, gains in agricultural productivity and income stemmed in part from earlier efforts to establish village institutions and local federations, but participants claim these benefits have increased through influence of the broader MSP. Long-term and repeated engagement between the NGO, local federations and various government agencies gave way to parallel outcomes below the block level, eventually contributing to larger landscape-level goals.

In Odisha, a traditional farmer seed exchange network has been revived, and financing was secured from the district administration for enhanced irrigation. Moreover, communities reached an agreement on new rules to regulate open grazing. As a result, communities were able to cultivate a second annual crop, improving farmer incomes. In Gujarat, the MSP has also influenced the direction of public fund investments towards issues collectively voiced by communities. Community rights to forests and non-timber forest product (NTFTP) extraction have also been recognized, bolstering access to key livelihood resources.

In Oromia, MSP participants noted that major outcomes include decreased deforestation and degradation of forests using the multi-sector taskforce for rule enforcement established through the MSP, as well as increased livelihood diversification. Interviews with MSP participants and non-participants also noted that the MSP increased awareness among local communities on sustainable land use and helped increased the use of alternative energy sources such as energy-saving stoves.

On the Kenyan side of the Tana-Kipini landscape, agroforestry and rehabilitation of protected areas and farmlands have been initiated. Following identification and promotion of local actions through dialogue, farmers have established woodlots and planted trees around their farms, and protected areas were enriched through natural regeneration and replanting of degraded areas. Training to build awareness of the 2013 Wildlife Act resulted in reduced cases of human-wildlife conflict, and a new community monitoring system was introduced. On the Somalian side of the landscape, rainwater harvesting techniques have been piloted, honey value chains revived. Biodiversity status has also been assessed, resulting in a vision and roadmap for the establishment of a conservation area in Somalia. Landscape conservation committees have used the dialogue processes to engage various stakeholders in developing rules and ensuring higher participation in safeguarding natural resources. Participants cite the MSP's strong point as enabling the emergence of leadership in various conservation and development sectors that are deemed crucial for livelihood improvement.