ICCAS, SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILDLIFE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Considerations from IUCN CEESP/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group
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Sustainable use and ICCAs – the linkages

1. **use** of wildlife, either subsistence or with a commercial element, is clearly important to IPLCs across much of Africa
    - includes wildmeat hunting, food/medicinal plant use and trade, rituals, fuelwood, building materials, fish, fungi, trophy hunting, non-hunting tourism, pasture

2. **whether use is sustainable** depends critically on secure, clear rights/tenure to land & resources
    - lack of clear, enforceable rights to use, protect (power to say no!), manage and benefit from land and wildlife resources is generally viewed as one of the major underlying drivers of unsustainable use

3. **and on the existence of a robust governance institution**
    - capable of detecting and responding to ecological/economic/socio-political change

Sustainable use and ICCAs – the linkages

SO…

- **in practice, does having an ICCA in place make sustainable use more likely? are they mutually reinforcing?**

  - stronger community rights should make SU more likely

  - SU may in turn support community empowerment, management capacity, livelihoods

  - there are definitely some great examples of ICCAs and SU in Africa e.g. community conservancies in Namibia, Zovic in Burkina Faso

  - what are other good examples? is there a clear pattern?

What lessons have we learned /1?

A few key lessons relevant for your discussion on ICCAs, that we have found from our work:

1. **Community support and engagement is critical to combating the current surge of illegal wildlife trade (as well as unsustainable use in general)**

   - effective management, including effective enforcement against IWT, needs community buy-in and support
   - ICCAs are highly relevant here – should be part of strategies to combat IWT: because for communities ICCAs are the spaces of formation and development of rules accepted by populations and their application

2. **Incentives are crucial**

   - people need realistic incentives to manage wildlife sustainably, including benefits to offset the costs of living with large animals predators and wide wildlife protected areas.
   - its not all about money, but also recognition of rights, social and cultural benefits etc
   - people are want not to be just "beneficiaries", but also as fully-fledged actors in choosing how they want to use resources (hunting, ecotourism, non-timber forest products or timber?)

What lessons have we learned 2?

3. **Governments are still reluctant to devolve rights and responsibilities**
   - despite decades of research showing this is required, governments remain reluctant to give away central control and benefit streams (e.g. from timber, trophy hunting) – can be a major barrier to community wildlife management
   - national policy frameworks often not supportive of sustainable use

4. **The conservation world is getting more protectionist**
   - for charismatic wild animals and for hunting at least,
   - getting much harder to base community wildlife management on sustainable (consumptive) use, whether wild meat or trophy hunting – even wild plants
   - no community voice in these discussions at all – US NGOs dominate, sometimes space is given to private sector (e.g. hunting, timber concessions)

5. **At community level, building legitimate, effective wildlife resource management institutions is critical (but can be hard!)**
   - particularly important where developing new uses based on interactions with markets or commercial drivers (e.g. plant trade, trophy hunting, tourism)
   - conflict over inequitable benefit-sharing a major reason these initiatives fail

Policy recommendations

- highlight importance of SU for ICCAs (CBD and elsewhere) – need a strong message

- highlight importance of ICCAs for SU (IWT Conferences etc)

- strengthen community voice in "wildlife" discussions e.g. CITES, regional (e.g. AU, CEDEAO), national level policy

- build ability to *communicate* internationally – stories and experiences from the field