

South Africa (Maloti-Drakensberg)

Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Project (MDTP)

SUMMARY

The Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Project (MDTP) is a joint project between South Africa and Lesotho that aims to protect biodiversity in the Drakensberg and Maloti mountains through conservation, sustainable resource use, and land-use and development planning. The PES component plans to develop the capacity of local government stakeholders to recognise the value of ecosystem services and establish a trade in ecosystem services in selected areas.

MATURITY OF THE INITIATIVE

Identified as a pilot scheme in Landell-Mills and Porras (2002) Currently about to begin implementation (*classified as "very advanced proposal" in this review*). The PES sub-project in particular is about to move forward at last, since the negotiations with the World Bank are concluded.

DRIVER

PES scheme arises due to interest in preserving the water protection services provided by the Maloti and Drakensberg Mountains, from where 70% of South Africa's water supply originates. The environmental problems that the PES project will try to address are excessive livestock grazing, crop cultivation on steep slopes, uncontrolled burning, alien invading species and human encroachment.

STAKEHOLDERS

Supply

Two pilot municipalities (from a total of five selected) chosen according to their priority in terms of water security, importance of supply for rural and urban consumers, rural poverty (and consequent dependence on natural assets), rate of land use conversion and level of resource pressure from local communities.

In two of these areas (Mweni and Clarens), a large water utility is already investing in watershed management and there is a possibility of building on this.

Demand

Unclear

Intermediary

Unclear

MARKET DESIGN

Service

Unclear, but likely to be both water quantity and quality

Commodity

Unclear

Payment Mechanism

Unclear, likely to involve an agreement with the private sector and the government

Terms of Payment

Unclear

Funds Involved

Not known.

ANALYSIS OF COSTS AND BENEFITS

Economic

No information available

Environmental

No information available

Social

No information available



LEGISLATION ISSUES

There is already a Treaty that has been signed between South Africa and Lesotho for the trade in water.

MONITORING

No information available

MAIN CONSTRAINTS

According to Zunckel (2006), the main difficulties encountered so far are:

- i) to find suitably qualified people available to do the work;
- ii) compiling specific enough terms of reference for the World Bank procurement processes.
- iii) lack of trust in the potential of PES as an appropriate tool for the environmental problems to address,;
- iv) uncertainty as to how brokering agreements between catchment managers and water users would fit in with national water legislation that sees water as a national asset;
- v) despite the existence of a water trading treaty between South Africa and Lesotho, there seems to be some resistance to developing it further on a micro scale.

Despite these constraints, the project team has met wide support from most natural resource management people and academics.

MAIN POLICY LESSONS

OTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT

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REFERENCES

King, N et al (2005) An Inventory of current ecosystem service payments, markets and capacity building in South Africa. Document presented at the Eighth Public Meeting of the Katoomba Group- Building Foundations for Pro-Poor Ecosystem Services in Africa 19-22 September, 2005, Uganda

Personal Communication from Mr Kevan Zunkel (Jan2006)

Project website: www.maloti.org/bi/default.htm

LINKS

<http://www.jabenzi.co.za/>