Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction

*Entry Point - Natural Resource Governance*

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CARE’s Approach to NR Governance

- Promote participation, transparency and accountability through a rights-based approach focusing on procedural rights
  - Right to participate in decision making
  - Right to access information
  - Right to remedy in cases of discriminatory treatment
- Focus on:
  - Supporting rights-holders to make effective claims
  - Supporting duty-bearer to fulfill their responsibilities
  - Recognising diversity and explicitly targeting marginalised groups
Examples of interventions

• Supporting rights-holders to make effective claims
  – linkages from grass roots to higher level organisations to amplify voice
  – legal literacy
  – platforms where claims can be made
• Supporting duty-bearers to fulfill their responsibilities
  – strengthening accountability between state and citizens
  – supporting reform in government
• Recognising diversity and explicitly targeting marginalised groups
  – supporting mechanisms for inclusion of marginalised groups
  – strengthening organisations of marginalised groups
Governance type and equity in Thailand

![Graph showing the impact of governance on equity in Thailand, with benefits, costs, and net impact indicated.](image-url)
Governance and equity in Tanzania

• Two forms of Participatory Forest Management
  - Joint forest management (JFM) of state-owned reserves (=co-management) – c 850 villages
  - Community based forest management (CBFM) of village forests – c 1500 villages

• CARE/ODI and other studies concludes:
  - JFM highly inequitable in delivering very few benefits and substantial costs - in many/most cases not viable
  - CBFM viable, but problems of elite capture in many communities leaving many poorer community members worse off than before (i.e. vs open access)
Constraints of governance focus

• Improved governance does not necessarily deliver improved equity...... ................

..........................and improved equity does not necessarily deliver poverty reduction
• Governance work takes time to deliver social outcomes. You also need interventions that provide rapid, tangible livelihood benefits
• Role of civil society is critical – constraints in countries with poorly developed civil society (e.g. Tanzania).