Partnerships for water, food and ecosystems

Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

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Outline presentation

- Partnership ‘Water for food and ecosystems’
- Introduction to Central Rift Valley
- Methods and approaches
- Some results
- Lessons learned
Partnership ‘Water for food and ecosystems’

- Strengthen cooperation between Netherlands and international partners on wise use of water contributing to:
  - Integrated water resources management
  - Sustainable development
  - International water policy frameworks and conventions
Partnership ‘Water for food and ecosystems’

- FAO/Netherlands Conference Water for Food and Ecosystems in 2005.
- Recommendations for actions related to:
  - Fostering implementation of know-how
  - New economy for water
  - Creating enabling institutional conditions
- Required: Awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, know-how for action, capacity building
Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia
Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

- ± 1 Mln ha
- ± 1.5 Mln people
- Altitude 1500 - 3000 m
- Rainfall 650-1250 mm
- Short rainy season
Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

Why is the Central Rift Valley an interesting case study?

- **Closed** river basin
- Recent economic development through both small scale and large scale irrigated horticulture/floriculture.
- Downstream located National wetland Park
- Emerging eco-tourism industry

- Multiple stakeholders, competing natural resource claims
Multiple stakeholders, conflicting interests

- Agriculture: crops & livestock
- Urbanization
- Industry
- Forestry
- Nature
- Tourism
- Fisheries
- Domestic water supply

Competition for land and water resources
Objective of CRV partnership

- To strengthen local authorities in the field of integrated water resources management contributing to a sustainable development of the CRV

- Improve knowledge
- Raise awareness
- Stakeholder participation and dialogue
Methods and approaches

- Development of knowledge base
  - Quick scans (land use change, water use, climate change)
  - Demand driven action research on request by NGOs
  - Local and international MSc students (capacity building)

- Raise awareness and stimulate dialogue:
  - Collaborate with multi-stakeholder platform
  - Link up with other activities (e.g. Master Plan for Rift Valley)
  - In-country presentations, e.g. during World Water Day
  - Participatory land use plan workshop
Methods and approaches

People

Public sector

Science

Planet

Private sector

Profit

NGO’s
Some results of the knowledge base

- Increased intensification of land use (quadrupled in last 30 years).
- Irrigated smallholders are the major water users.
- The increase of irrigated area is associated with a drop in the water table of the terminal lake Abijata.
- Water & land productivity in floriculture > 10 times higher than smallholder vegetable production.
Some results of awareness raising and dialogue process

- **Demystification, e.g.:**
  - water use (efficiency) of smallholders vs greenhouses
  - Contribution of soda ash plant to regional water use
  - Low performance of smallholder vegetable production
  - Climate change (not less rainfall)

- **Empowerment:**
  - Stakeholders are better able to decide (informed decision-making), and to
  - develop alternative livelihood strategies such as eco-tourism.
Some results of awareness raising and dialogue process

- Strengthening of networks, by bringing together stakeholders:
  - that didn’t know each other while their actions have cross-cutting effects.
  - operate at different levels (national, regional, district, community).

- Building of trust among stakeholders through the development of a **common vision** for a part of the CRV.
Lessons learned

- Strong counterpart in target area (in our case Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre)
  - Organization
  - Self-interest
  - Own funds
- Who are the stakeholders? How to involve them in the dialogue, and keep them involved?
- Dialogue, but also try to get something done ‘on the ground’ through R&D activities.
Lessons learned

- Communication, which method is most effective (websites, reports, policy briefs, presentations, etc.)?
- Be aware of cultural, institutional, power relationships.
- Fight against common believes (greenhouses vs smallholder irrigation).
- Dialogue is a process: ‘give it time’, but when to stop?
Thank you