

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or tan color with a fine, woven texture. A silver metal spiral binding is visible along the left edge. The text is centered on the cover in a black, serif font.

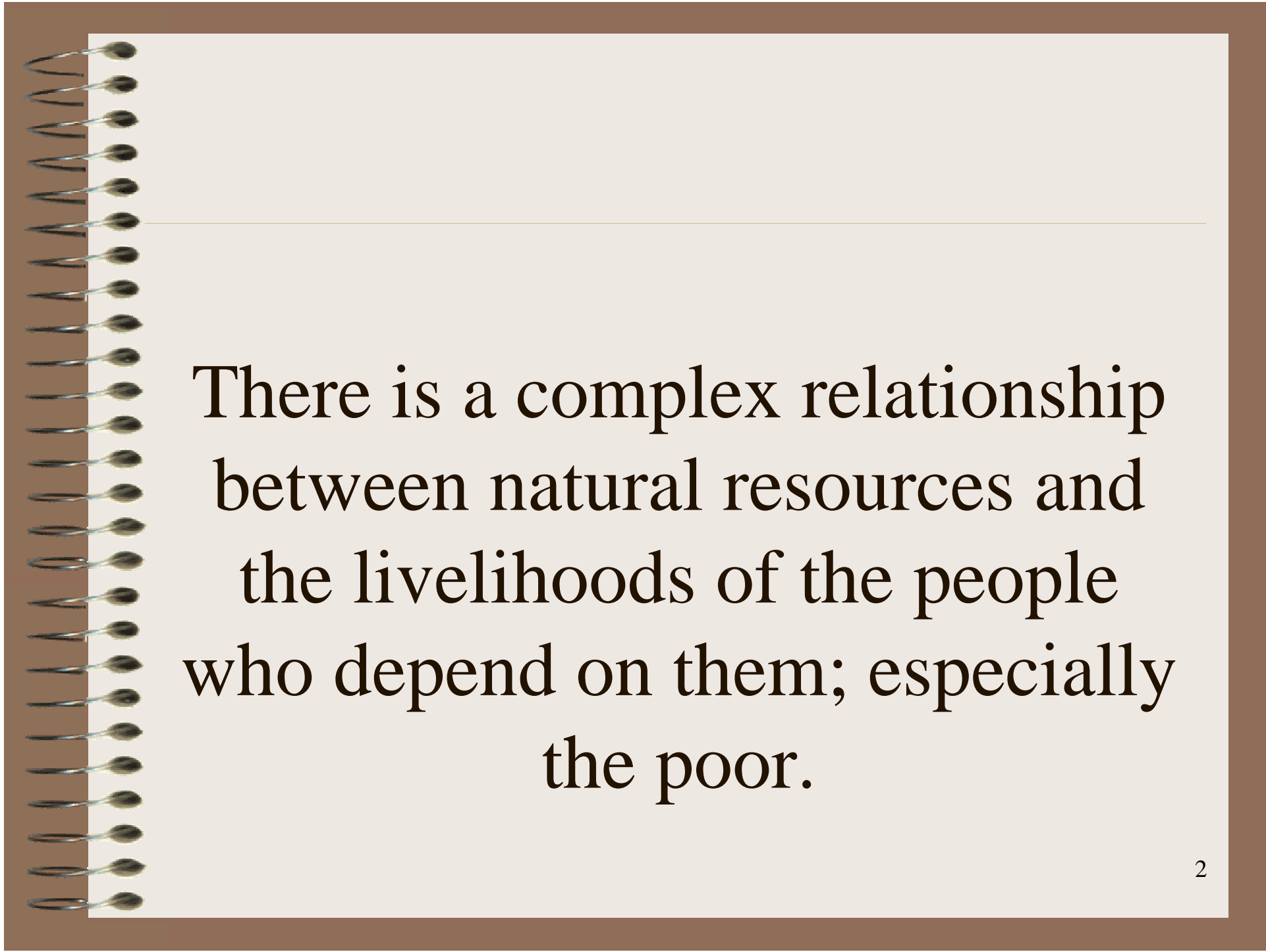
Sociological Aspects of Land use Decisions

Alice A. Kaudia and Emily Obonyo

Kenya Forestry Research Institute

P. O Box 20412 –00200

Kenya

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a brown cover and a white page. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

There is a complex relationship
between natural resources and
the livelihoods of the people
who depend on them; especially
the poor.




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- KEY WORD: REHABILITATION
- MY FOCUS: PEOPLE AND WHAT THEY DO TO SURVIVE
 - AND
 - THE OPPORTUNITIES THEIR ACTIONS PRESENT FOR REHABILITATION INITIATIVES

Who lives in drylands?..

- Demographic perspectives
 - 2 billion people; – about 40% of the world population
 - 270 Million :40% African people inhabit drylands of Africa.
 - Predominantly the poor?



Population related factors that affect land use decisions

- Population distribution and densities
- Health status especially in relation to HIV/AIDS infection and impact
- Household composition and characteristics
 - marital status, age, and household size and education status of members

Household livelihoods, poverty and land use

- Human capital aspects



..On poverty

- “ a pronounced deprivation of well-being related to lack of material income or consumption , low levels of education , vulnerability and exposure to risk , no opportunity to be heard and powerlessness” (World Bank, 2001).



Human Capital: Labour, Knowledge, Skills and Gender

- Labour is a critical factor of production in drylands . Recent research (Campbell *et al*, 2002...no slack period in drylands
- Cash remittance is a major factor in wealth differentiation of households implying the importance of migration to non-farm income opportunities

Human Capital: Labour..

- In the drylands, the human resource capital is typically weak because of nutritional deficiencies (Jary. 2000); and this has implications on types of activities and scale of exploitation of forest - resource base.



Human Capital: Knowledge, Skills and Gender

- Culture of dryland communities places unbearable load on women in terms of their responsibility in household production and reproduction, yet, women are also the disadvantaged lot in terms of education and training opportunities.



Human Capital: Some questions..

- Is there a critical mass of capable human resource capital to facilitate rehabilitation of drylands?
- What are the appropriate technologies that can support the quality of human capital in drylands?
- If appropriate technologies are identified/generated, What are the mechanisms for imparting skills to target populations with opportunities for balanced benefits to households of different socio-economic status and people of varying poverty levels?



Social capital: Institutions and resource tenure

Social capital: Definition

The human relations that govern activities that inhabitants of an ecosystem can draw on to attain their livelihoods objectives. The capital include clan networks, norms on access to, ownership and user-rights on factors of production, reciprocal labour groups, family and household members' labour.



Observations on changes social capital

- Tendency to focus on family unit (Individualism)
- Blending of institutional arrangements for participatory governance of forest resources
- Marginalization of the poor-exclusion mechanisms



Social capital: Some questions...

- 1 What are the merits and demerits of institutional arrangements that integrate formal and traditional institutions?.
- 2 Which exclusion mechanisms are applied in various situations and what are the implications of such exclusion mechanisms for equity and equality in resource use by people of different social backgrounds?
- 3 Are local resource management institutions sustainable?
- 4 Can demand –driven interventions founded on locally generated action plans with comprehensive involvement of potential beneficiaries be viable options for rehabilitation of degraded lands?.



Social capital : Some questions

- 5 Are local resource management institutions sustainable?
- 6 Can demand –driven interventions founded on locally generated action plans with comprehensive involvement of potential beneficiaries be viable options for rehabilitation of degraded lands?.




SUMMARY: DEMOGRAPHY

- What is the current and projected trend in the demographic structure of Dryland populations
- What are the implications of the changes for sustainable management of Dryland forests?
- Are there appropriate technologies to support sustainable use of dryland forest resources given the changes in population structure in terms of human resource capacity and capability as well as changes in gender roles?



SUMMARY: livelihoods and poverty

- What is the appropriate framework for livelihood analysis in the Drylands?
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- What are the appropriate sociological interventions for establishing sustainable livelihoods systems in Drylands through forestry ?
- What has been the effect and impact of chronic, transient, and absolute poverty to degradation of Dryland forests ?



SUMMARY: livelihoods and poverty...

- What should be done to mitigate/alleviate the different types, levels and depth of poverty in drylands using forest-based technologies?
- What types of changes are apparent in gender dimensions of forest resources management in Drylands and what are the implications?
- What is the potential of poverty-focussed forest-based strategies in sustainable dryland forest management?

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- What are the strategic **opportunities** that will aid the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal of halving the global population living under extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015?.