

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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| Date: | 12/12/2011 | Entry Number: | 1145 |
| Case Study Name: | Community Natural Resource Management: Promise, Rhetoric, and Reality | | |
| Author: | Stephen R. Kellert, Jai N. Mehta, Syma A. Ebbin, Laly L. | | |
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| Region: | North America, Africa and South Asia | | |
| Country: | USA, Kenya and Nepal | | |
| Ecosystem Type: | Terrestrial and aquatic | | |
| Social Characteristics: | Coastal/ rural communities | | |
| Scale of Study: | Global | | |
| Resource Type: | Biodiversity conservation, fisheries | | |
| Type of Initiative: | Research driven | | |
| Community Based Work: | Resource management | | |

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| Keywords: | Community Resource Management, Kenya, Nepal, Sustainability |
| Summary: | <p>Community natural resource management (CNRM) has been extensively promoted in recent years as an approach for pursuing biological conservation and socioeconomic objectives. The rationale for CNRM is often compelling and convincing. Relatively little data exists, however, regarding its implementation, particularly the reconciliation of social and environmental goals. This article summarizes empirical evidence regarding the implementation of CNRM, based on five case studies in Nepal, the U.S. states of Alaska and Washington, and Kenya. Six social and environmental indicators are used to evaluate and compare these cases, including equity, empowerment, conflict resolution, knowledge and awareness, biodiversity protection, and sustainable resource utilization. The results of this analysis indicate that, despite sincere attempts and some success, serious deficiencies are widely evident. In especially Nepal and Kenya, CNRM rarely resulted in more equitable distribution of power and economic benefits, reduced conflict, increased consideration of traditional or modern environmental knowledge, protection of biological diversity, or sustainable resource use. By contrast, CNRM in the North American cases was more successful. Institutional, environmental, and organizational factors help explain the observed differences</p> |