

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY



INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT

Decentralisation in Practice

Power, Livelihoods and Cultural Meaning in West Africa

Workshop Highlights 2004

Making Decentralisation Work

Decentralisation offers real opportunities for local people to have a say in the decisions that affect their everyday lives. But will this opportunity be realised? IIED, together with a range of partner organisations, is striving to make decentralisation work. The goal is pro-poor economic growth and social development through more equitable and sustainable management of the natural resources on which so many people depend. This programme responds to a major change in policy among Sahelian governments. Decentralisation—the transfer of decision-making powers and resources from central government to elected local government bodies—is being pursued throughout the region.

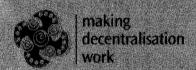
The Making Decentralisation Work programme is designed to support these changes in three key areas:

- Building the capacity of local people and their organisations to influence the local and national level decisions that affect their lives.
- Building the capacity of local institutions, particularly elected government bodies, to be inclusive and accountable in the management of local affairs.
- Building the capacity of central government to create a broad policy environment, which empowers local level decision-making and authority, while ensuring/principles of equity and sustainability.

For more information about the programme please go to our website www.iied.org/drylands or contact us at IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London, WC1/H DDD, United Kingdom, email: drylands@iied.org.

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