



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

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](http://www.iied.org/drylands) or contact us at IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London, WC1H 0DD, United Kingdom, email: [drylands@iied.org](mailto:drylands@iied.org).

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making  
decentralisation  
work

**Danida**



**Sida**

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In collaboration with  
Sida and DANIDA

