

Power and the Social Dimensions of Poverty and Natural Resource Management

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PURPOSE OF SESSION:

To explore basic concepts of social organization and power that have a profound affect on development work, and affect ANY program that seeks to redistribute assets within the political and social system.



GOALS

- Understand the importance of factors relating to power and social organization to the success or failure of our development endeavor.
- Understand the concepts of power, patronage, clientelism, and social capital, which underlie and influence choices and outcomes—both the definitions and why the concepts are important for NRM and poverty reduction.
- Acquire a “technical skill” for efficiently understanding power relationships and factor them in to development work to maximize possibilities of improving the welfare of poor and marginalized groups.



SESSION OVERVIEW

- Definitions of key concepts and their importance
- Introduction and work first as individuals, then as a group on developing a stakeholder matrix
- In small groups, applying the matrix to the Namibia case study
- Plenary presentations of group work
- Wrap up to review whether the goals have been met



POWER

- ‘Power is a pervasive aspect of all human relationships. ...how much power an individual or group is able to achieve governs how far they are able to put their wishes into practice at the expense of those of others.’ (Anthony Giddens)
 - Can be through legal or illegal means
 - Derives from multiple sources



CLIENTELISM

- A network of one-to-one relationships based on unequal power; reciprocity of benefits
- Based on historic patterns of land ownership and peonage
- Adapted to local government (urban and rural) and resilient
- Often found within layers of elected government, or bureaucracies
- **Elements of clientelism are found in all societies**



PATRONAGE

- Traditional:
 - Within communities, elites offering certain assistance, esp. in times of hardship, in return for services/support
 - In government, public sector jobs offered by politicians to their clients and allies, based on their private power relationship
- Modern:
 - Offering a broad array of state benefits, beyond jobs: non-competitive contracts, monopolies, subsidies, media control, differential regulation, etc. Still based on strengthening private power relationships
- Patrimonial state: All state resources benefit particular groups, rather than society in general



WHY LOOK AT THESE PHENOMENA?

- They help explain why NRM and poverty reduction programs falter.
- USAID as a donor is inevitably a player in the patronage game; need to understand what linkages are strengthened/weakened
- 50-60% of DG Assessments single out patronage and clientelism as key development obstacles...
- Patronage incentives are amenable to change

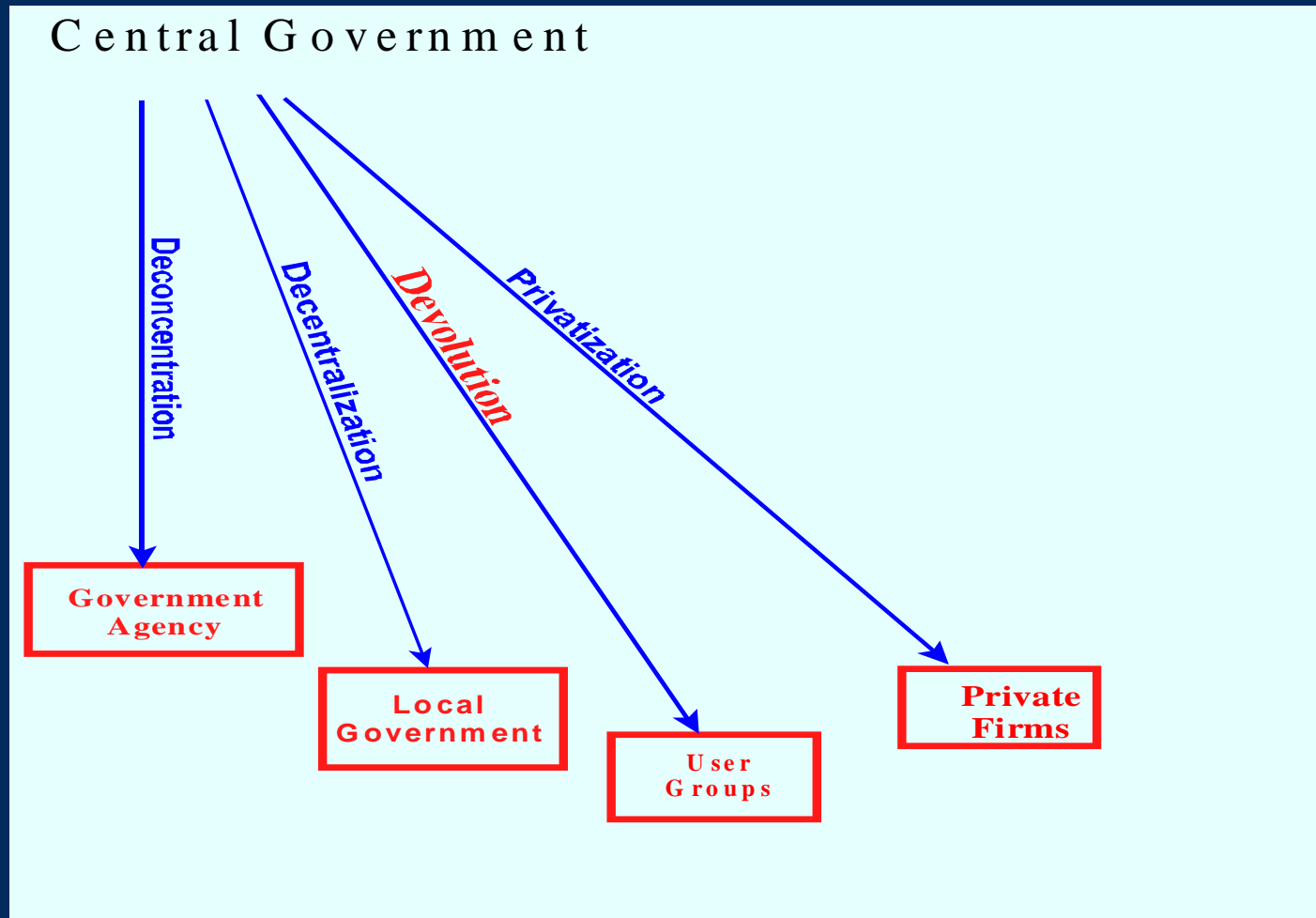


DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS THAT IMPEDE AND DIMINISH PATRONAGE

- Promote transparency in all state actions
- Increase political competition (local v nat'l govt; new parties and oversight)
- Scope of state: reduce it (absolute and %)—but consider who power is transferred TO
- Encourage “horizontal linkages” (of equals, e.g. unions, mass membership organizations, mobilized social groups [churches, youth groups] to replace “vertical” ones) Robert Putnam



DEVOLUTION, DECENTRALIZATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS



SOCIAL CAPITAL

- **Collective:** Features of social organization - such as networks and values, including tolerance, inclusion, reciprocity, participation and trust - that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. Social capital inheres in the relations between and among actors. (UNDP 1997).
- **Individual:** The social resources (networks, membership of groups, relationship of trust, access to wider institutions of society) upon which people draw in pursuit of livelihoods (Carney 1998:7).
- Not only positive—those in power or blocking reforms also have social capital



TYPES OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

- *Bonding social capital*: Horizontal ties that give communities a sense of identity and common purpose (World Bank 2002)
- *Bridging social capital*: Ties that transcend various social divides (e.g. religion, ethnicity, socio-economic status) (World Bank 2002)
 - With like people who are physically distant
 - **Linking** (vertical ties)



STAKEHOLDERS

- Anyone with a (substantial) interest
 - Those who can damage/weaken authority, block changes
 - Those who can strengthen, benefit the program
 - Those who can influence direction or mix of an organization's activities
- Stakeholder analysis focuses on groups'
 - Interest in a particular issue
 - Types of resources they have to affect outcomes



STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS IN NRM and POVERTY REDUCTION

- Identify multiple users of resource, interest groups
 - By occupation
 - Elites/nonelites
 - By gender
 - By generation within the household
 - Leaders and others in NRM groups
 - Local and non-local
 - Look for marginalized groups
 - Government agencies
 - Traders, others with livelihood stakes
 - NGOs, environmental interest groups



ACTION ARENA



INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION

- Are all stakeholders actors (are they all included)?
 - Possible forms of exclusion:
 - Being overlooked in formation of MSP
 - Formal rules (e.g. only land owners, head of household)
 - Other barriers: Ability to attend meetings, make contributions (look at time, location, cash requirements)
 - Ability to speak and be heard (is it worthwhile to attend?)



ACTION RESOURCES

- Tangible and intangible assets that give actors possibility of agency (to change things)
 - Tangible:
 - Rights to land, water, other natural resources
 - Physical assets, including access to infrastructure (roads, information technology)
 - Financial resources
 - Intangible: social capital
 - Political or social connections
 - Internal connections (“bonding social capital”)
 - External connections (“bridging social capital”)



ACTION RESOURCES: INTANGIBLE ASSETS—HUMAN CAPITAL

- Human capital is the knowledge and skills that individuals bring to the solution of a problem (Ostrom 1994)
 - Information and ability to process it
 - *Cognitive schemata* to make sense of the world
 - Social standing, *habitus*
 - Time
 - To participate in activities
 - Time horizon, discount rate



RULES, STRATEGIES

- Some kinds of organizational structures give more importance to certain resources
 - Formal meetings vs. informal communication
 - Formal training vs. local knowledge
 - Time, travel requirements for local people vs. government agents



ACTION AREA: SOCIAL BARGAINING

- What is the subject of the bargain?
- Who has positional and sanctioning power?
- Who has the ability to affect payoffs of strategic interactions
- How can the poor increase their ability to bargain (e.g. through collective action ?)
- How can external institutions affect the bargaining position of the poor?



STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

Group/ Organiz- ation	Interest in project	Action resources	Import- ance of resources	Mobilization capacity	Facilitate Poor's Access to /Use of NRM? Reduce Poverty?



STRUCTURAL FACTORS

Please list several micro, meso or macro level structural factors/constraints that are pertinent to the stakeholder analysis and that would likely effect the success of the case study project in Namibia.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

Group/ Organization	Interest in project	Action resources	Importance of resources	Mobilization capacity	Facilitate poor's access to /use of nrm? Reduce Poverty?
USAID/Namibia	USAID/Namibia's Strategic Objective on Integrated Natural Resources Management: "Improved rural livelihoods through sustainable integrated natural resources management."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding ▪ Relationships with other donors (SIDA, DANCED, DFID, Global Environment Facility. 	In addition to advancing rural livelihoods through USAID funds, USAID has the ability to influence other donor agendas in Namibia. For example, as a result of the program's success, "The Global Environment Facility has provided a grant to the Integrated Community-Based Ecosystem Management Project."	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National-level impacts on economic growth and poverty reduction, biodiversity recovery and environmental rehabilitation and government policy and legislation, as well as on local participation and empowerment. ▪ Increased socio-economic benefits and increase in wildlife stocks. Individual households, however, have not benefited from wildlife and tourism as much as anticipated.



APPLYING THESE PRINCIPLES

- Break into small groups
- Review Namibia case study
- Group fills in Stakeholder Analysis Table
- Discuss implications of power relations for outcomes of community conservancies

