Fundraising for RCEs: views from southern Africa

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Regional Environmental Education Programme (REEP)
RCEs for ESD

- RCEs in southern Africa have been formed generally by supporting existing (communities of) practice in ESD for better practice

- Examples of such RCEs include the Swaziland RCE, Makana RCE, KZN RCE, Zomba RCE (Malawi) and Maputo RCE (Mozambique)

- This model is also being followed by upcoming RCEs such as Botswana; Secondary Teacher Training EE Programme, Mutare LA 21 (Zimbabwe)
Sustainability characteristics of Communities of Practice

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Cultivating WESM (Malawi) Community of Practice (CoP) – The Strategy

B. Shared Domain of interest:
- Wise management of wildlife
- NRM
- EE/ESD

A. Joint activities binding WESM members together:
- Membership meetings
- Trainings
- Materials development
- Advocacy

C. Shared repertoire / share practice:
- EE
- Capability centered practice
- Language
- Materials
- Newsletter
- Public participation

II. PROPOSED WESM/REEP LINKAGE
- WESM approached SABEEP for partnership in EE training in Malawi (email, January 2009)
- Several staff members of WESM have been by SABEEP and resource materials have been exchanged between the two organisations
- Expertise strengths model EE training, NRM & utilisation, EE materials development for comm

III. STRATEGIES to cultivate the CoP
- Use WESM partnership proposal to SADC REEP as entry point to partnership action to extend their expertise...
- Encourage WESM to work closely with EE Net Reps and the ESD focal point, and the education NetRep focal point
- Linking WESM to the existing Zomba REEP joint activities.
- Encourage more enhanced networking and partnerships between WESM and MMCT, E. Africa Malawi, R&SCOPE Malawi and MCF

IV. NEXT STEPS
- Maintain discussions on the proposed partnership and of towards the CoP
- Come up with way forward for the two partners.

Source: www.wordravel.com/...Countries/Malawi/Map
Implications for funding and fundraising

- RCE members bring their plans and associated resources to the RCE forum, where coordination and joint implementation is possible. They are driven by the passion for a common interest.

- For new projects, interested members of the RCE develop project proposals jointly to potential funders (rather than competing for money).

- The KZN RCE has developed over the years a relationship with Sida to support establishment of 14 RCEs in southern Africa, at least one in each of the member states. This is done pragmatically. So far 3 RCEs have been assisted. Three (3) more promising for 2009 (Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho).

- A seed funding facility (US$2,500) exists to support workshops. This seed fund is accompanied by proposers’ own resources and sustainability plan.
Challenges and opportunities

- Climate change: impacts on health, food security. There is already funding going into these sectors, which we need to tap into.
- Governments signed to UNDESD – governmental support and participation needs to be cultivated
- Private-public partnerships – the corporate sector was conspicuous by its absence at WEEC. We need them, not to fund ESD (alone), but to be champions in and for ESD
- The global financial crunch is probably an opportunity to look at different alternative paths for development and financing
Lessons learnt

- The **purposes** of forming an RCE will determine the RCE’s sustainability. Hence the **formative stage** is critical.

- An unsustainable RCE is a still-birth, as it is supposed to carry out Education for **Sustainable** Development.

- **Member commitment** and passion is the key to resource mobilisation within the RCE.

- **Joint fundraising** is possible when there is a common vision.
Prospects for the future

- Public-private partnerships
- Capacity building and sharing
- Pragmatic growth combined with conceptual depth and engagement
- N-S-S collaboration and twinning
When all the water has been polluted, all the forests gone and all the soil contaminated then we will realise that what we need is not money

Thank you

Merci