

# „Balancing the needs of conservation, poverty reduction and governance“

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for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm



## Conclusions and Recommendations

# Background

- 40 experts from the fields of development cooperation and conservation
- Recommendations towards German Development Cooperation

**gtz**

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INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

**BfN**  
Federal Agency for  
Nature Conservation

# Main Messages

- Many experiences in linking conservation and poverty reduction
- Overall mainstreaming still lacking
- Remaining challenge: achieving win-wins and negotiating acceptable trade-offs
- Governance dimension needs more attention:

**Who decides about natural resource management and how?“**

# Challenges

- Address governance: Institutional settings, power relations and incentives
- Enable and empower all actors to participate in decision-making
- Recognize and respect customary governance institutions of ILCs
- Foster functioning interfaces between customary & state governance
- Actively promote transparency and accountability, address corruption at all levels
- Address external (economic) drivers
- Policy coherence, cross-sectoral linkages and linkages between policy levels

# Instruments

- More conceptual and political support and capacity building needed for instruments valuing, generating and sharing benefits from biodiversity
- Pay particular attention to equitable sharing of benefits
- Ensure that instruments are inclusive, contribute to poverty reduction, empower and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Adapt instruments to needs of less powerful groups and to customary institutions
- Be aware of effects of instruments on governance structures and power relations (elite capture...)
- Take this into account in new mechanisms of carbon trade, REDD

# Remaining Questions

- When are financial and market-based instruments really appropriate?
- When is devolution to local communities?
- How do we address corruption and informal power-relations?
- Which alliances do we build to tackle external drivers?
- Which poverty reduction do we mean?