



Local Development Process (LDP) | Methods and Tools

Context

Local planning, which is a favoured means of enabling the local population to play an active and responsible role in their area's development, was designed in response to the failure of development strategies advocated in the past and as a result of the fairly recent wish of the *Government of the Republic of Chad* to integrate 'popular participation' into its rural development policies. This concept flanks the action taken to decentralise technical services, the efforts to reduce state intervention and the privatisation of production and management activities.

Local planning is a local development tool that enables the population in a certain territorial unit (canton or caliphate) to express their needs freely and responsibly with the aim of improving their living conditions. It makes it possible to:

- establish and prioritise the needs of the people;
- take into account the entire population of the canton (especially young people, women and disadvantaged members of society);
- encourage people to form groups and associations so that they can become accepted as partners by various socioeconomic stakeholders, and participate efficiently in the economic and social development of their region.

The criteria for drawing up a local plan are:

- to apply for support from the programme, other projects or non-governmental organisations in the relevant area;
- community involvement in planning (commitment and capacity to draw up the plan);
- the quality with which local resources and constraints are identified;
- mobilisation of the required human, financial and material resources;
- the coherence, relevance and realism of the intended orientation and activities in the long term;
- the setting up of a *cantonal development committee* (CDC).

The programme is based on the cantonal structure and is directed towards farmers' organisations, works *management and*

maintenance committees (CGEs), and the associations and groups involved in local development.

All areas are taken into account, including health, education, economy, crafts, trade and sustainable management of natural resources. The LDP must also give consideration to existing plans and the drafting of local charters and agreements in the field of communal natural resources.

The plan takes about four to seven months to draw up and includes three phases with nine steps in all:

PHASES

STEPS

Raising awareness and initial identification of needs in the canton

1. Informing the canton about the conditions for support from the programme in drawing up the LDP;
2. Training local volunteer facilitators in local planning;
3. Preparation for identifying the canton's needs.

Identification of canton's needs and scheduling the required activities

4. Workshop to identify canton's needs and to prioritise activities (drafting of town and country planning scheme);
5. Thematic committee work;
6. Workshop to prioritise projects and have the draft LDP adopted by the population;
7. Finalisation of the LDP.

Preparing to put the LDP into practice

8. Validation of the LDP by the departmental action committee (CDA);
9. Dissemination of the LDP.



Stakeholders

The local planning developed by the *Programme for Decentralised Rural Development* (PDRD) since September 2004 forms part of the national decentralisation policy that aims to facilitate the setting up of *decentralised territorial collectivities* (CTDs).

Since these territorial collectivities have not yet been set up, the programme is based on the cantons and is directed towards farmers' organisations, *local orientation and decision-making bodies* (ILODs), and to the associations, groups and other structures involved in the area's development.

a. The population

One of the first planning steps is to form population groups at three levels: within villages (women's group, men's group, mixed group), between villages (unions between groups, associations and management committees), and above village level (federations that bring together organisations in several drainage basins or cantons).

The role of these farmers' organisations is to give greater autonomy to the people concerned, allowing them to continue managing their resources efficiently by better distribution and use of the harvest produce, and by setting up community funds to maintain public works and promote economic and social development within the community.

b. The cantonal development committee (CDC)

To pave the way for decentralisation, the programme decided to structure its activities at cantonal level (since the canton may end up being defined by the state as a decentralised territorial collectivity) and commune level, to support local planning. The local planning developed by the programme therefore fits in with the envisaged national decentralisation policy, and aims to facilitate the establishment of decentralised territorial collectivi-



ties. However, since local elections have not yet taken place, these territorial collectivities have not yet been set up. The cantonal development committee has therefore been created with the canton as the territorial unit, and is the central management and steering body for implementing the LDP.

c. Executing agencies

- Service providers: these are commissioned by the project to carry out clearly defined activities. Later on, they may share their experience with the *decentralised territorial collectivities* (CTDs);
- Decentralised technical services: they assure the people that the envisaged activities fit in with the policies and standards defined by each of their ministries;
- Programme teams: these are responsible for coordinating and integrating activities into the envisaged schedule in line with the three areas of intervention: management of natural resources, decentralisation and decentralised development fund;
- *Departmental action committee* (CDA), tasked with validating the LDP, promoting it and ensuring it is monitored.

Activities

The following activities have been carried out:

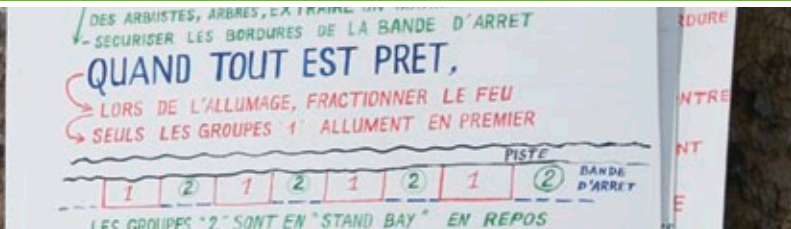
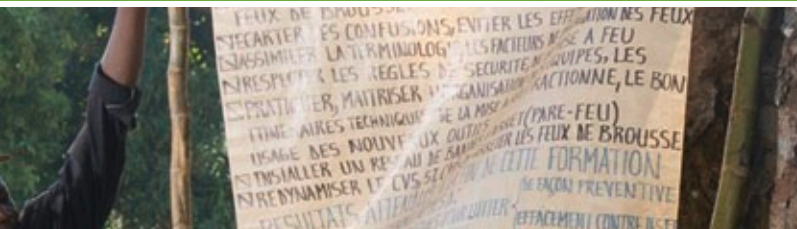
- LDPs have been drawn up with support from *local orientation and decision-making bodies* (ILODs) and the programme;
- The people have developed organisational structures;
- A capacity building programme has been set up for the local people;
- Support has been provided in the form of advice to *farmers' organisations*, ILODs, CDCs, *management and maintenance committees* (CGEs), *health committees* (COSANs) for their various activities;
- The human, financial and material resources required to build the socioeconomic infrastructures have been mobilised;
- Participatory management and maintenance of the infrastructures that have been built.

Products and their use

- Via the LDP, local people and stakeholders and their structures are supported in setting up and managing their projects;
- In cooperation with *departmental advice and support centres* (PODACs), the programme trains local experts who are able to implement projects and helps grant *awards committees* (CO) and *departmental action committees* (CDA) to acquaint themselves with orientation and decision-making mechanisms.



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- It also supports the committees that manage and maintain the *socioeconomic infrastructure* (CGEs) and valorise natural resources;
- By using the products, the local population and institutions contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources in their area, to the management of their projects and a better prioritisation of needs.

Direct results

In the PRODABO (*Programme for Decentralised Rural Development in Assoungba, Biltine and Ouara*) area, the programme has achieved the following results:

- Support has been provided to 900 groups and associations, which bring together and organise about 250,000 village people;
- In January 2009, 26 of the 31 cantons in the programme's intervention zone had drawn up their LDPs;
- 26 *cantonal development committees* (CDCs) and several market gardener groups have been set up;
- 139 *management and maintenance committees* (CGEs) have been set up;
- 12 *health committees/health centre management committees* (COSAN/COGES) have been created.

In the PRODALKA (sub-programme of PDRD) area:

- 33 cantons in the programme's intervention zone have LDPs;
- 271 volunteer facilitators in the cantons and 6 service providers have been trained in local planning;
- 35 local agreements and 6 charters have been drafted by the local natural resource management structures;
- A large number of village groups, *cantonal development committees* and *infrastructure management and maintenance committees* have been set up;
- Four infrastructure management guides have been drawn up and are being used by the *management and maintenance committees* (CGEs).

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Monitoring and evaluation

The LDPs are evaluated after being in operation for one year and reviewed one year before the plan expires. This allows the required adjustments to be made to the initial priorities. The activities are monitored on a day-to-day basis by the canton chiefs, who have formal responsibility for the planning process and ensuring that planned activities are carried out.

Scaling up

The results achieved in terms of methods for drawing up and implementing local development plans make it possible to strengthen the democratic process and prepare the people for future municipal structures. The drawing up of LDPs is especially appreciated by the Chadian authorities, which are endeavouring to replicate the approach in other regions of the country.

Environmental impact

Including activities related to natural resource management in LDPs and implementing these activities helps to combat desertification and protect the environment.

Communities first become aware of these issues when they analyse the problems they face. Afterwards, when seeking sustainable solutions, they continue to think about these problems. This may lead village people to adopt measures to protect forests, lakes and farmland via local agreements, which they undertake to enforce and also comply with themselves.

Constraints

The delay in implementing decentralisation, added to the low level of resources for funding infrastructures and the lack of official recognition for the support structures set up, such as the CDCs and ILODs, constitutes a major hold up.