

Making Laws at the Grassroots Level

Mauritania Rural Environment
Technology fosters Tradition
A World Bank / GtZ Initiative

<http://www4.worldbank.org/legal/legaf/reform.html>



Making Laws at the Grassroots Level – Why ?

- Laws regulate behavior
- Behavior is value based – the essence of cultural heritage
- Outside influences (draught, migration) may render some customs destructive
- The reason for change has to be understood and the need for change accepted



Making Laws at the Grassroots Level – Why ?

- Understanding - Executing – a huge step
- The only way to truly ascertain behavioral change, and its application is : making the rules yourself
- A law not implemented is not effective; an institution applying the law is not present in marginal areas: hence:
- The community enforces its' own rules



Making Laws at the Grassroots Level - Characteristics

- Local setting
- Local language – its' flow and flavor
- Brevity, simplicity and clarity
- Policy objectives spelled out and shared
- Coherence with national laws (GLIN) and international conventions (or exemption)



Making Laws at the Grassroots Level - mainstream

- Content is shared and applied to similar ecological zones
- Methodology is copied to other social settings
- Administrative approval – co-management
- Parliamentary approval



Making Laws at the Grassroots

Level - technical support

- GLIN – easy access to the legal text
- Mapping – aerial photography of the ecological zone
- GIS centered locations
- Presence of “Grassroots Laws” on the National (central) geographic map (accessible through the internet)



Making Laws at the Grassroots Level - local mapping process

