

MODULE 1.9, HANDOUT #1: MET 'Guidelines for Developing an Appropriate Method for the Equitable Distribution of Benefits to Members of the Community' (page 1 of 2)

These Guidelines were attached as Annex 2 to a Memorandum sent to all conservancies by the Minister of Environment and Tourism in 2008.

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING AN APPROPRIATE METHOD FOR THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Notes

1. Section 24A (2) (c) of the *Nature Conservation Amendment Act, 1996* requires that before the Minister can register the conservancy he/she must be satisfied that a conservancy committee "has an appropriate method for the equitable distribution, to members of the community, of benefits derived from the consumptive and non-consumptive use of game" in the conservancy.
2. Section 155B (3) (g) of the Regulations accompanying the Act requires that the conservancy constitution must state "the procedure for members of the community to decide on the policy to be followed by the conservancy committee in the equitable distribution of benefits".
3. The Ministry therefore requires that in order to be registered by the Minister, a conservancy must have a *method* for equitable benefit distribution as well as a *procedure* for taking decisions on benefit distribution in future.
4. The regulations require that this *procedure* should be contained in the conservancy constitution. An example of such a procedure is that benefit distribution should be contained in the conservancy budget and should be approved by the members of the conservancy at the conservancy Annual General Meeting (AGM).
5. However, the *method* required by legislation needs to be described in Section 8 of the Conservancy Application Form. These guidelines focus on the development of the *method* for benefit distribution which must be described in the application form.
6. Conservancy committees and members developing a method for benefit distribution should be aware that the word "equitable" that is used in the legislation and regulations does not mean "equal" it means "fair".

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Guidelines

1. The method for equitable distribution of benefits is intended to provide an initial guideline for the conservancy and is likely to change once the conservancy actually starts to receive income. It should therefore be kept simple and provide a broad framework for benefit distribution.

2. The method should indicate the following:

- The overall objective of benefit distribution within the conservancy
- Identification of any specific target groups for benefits e.g. the sick and elderly; the traditional authority; people suffering from human wildlife conflict, etc.
- The means by which benefits will be distributed e.g. through social projects such as building an extra classroom for the school, cash dividends to members, provision of jobs to members or a combination of these and any other means the conservancy identifies.

MODULE 1.9, HANDOUT #2: Self-assessment evaluation for participants

Participants receiving training in Module 1.9 are not subject to formal assessment. However, in order for you to assess the knowledge and skills you have acquired on distribution planning and benefit sharing, and for the trainer to ascertain how effective the training has been, you are encouraged to answer for yourself the following questions and discuss your answers – as part of a group or individually – with your trainer.

- 1. Can I explain – in general terms – the legal provisions for conservancy benefit distribution, as outlined in the *Nature Conservation Amendment Act of 1996* and its 'Regulations'?**
- 2. Can I identify the three parts of the structure for a method (or plan) for benefit distribution, as outlined in the MET Guidelines on benefit sharing?**
- 3. Can I list the four key components of conservancy spending?**
- 4. Do I fully understand the links between benefit distribution, budgeting and sustainability planning?**
- 5. Am I able to identify the key interest groups within the conservancy?**
- 6. Can I briefly outline the four principles that can be applied to make sure that a Benefit Distribution Plan is equitable?**
- 7. Can I list the five steps in developing a Benefit Distribution Plan?**
- 8. Can I list the main cash and non-cash benefits that might result from activities in the conservancy?**
- 9. Do I know what method we use for getting the Benefit Distribution Plan approved at the conservancy?**