

Making the link

Assessing the Effectiveness of 15 years of Integrated Conservation & Development around BMCA



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Care International in Uganda



**Conservation Development
Centre**



Worldwide Fund for Nature



Uganda Wildlife Authority



USAID



**International Gorilla
Conservation Programme**



Wildlife Conservation Society



**Mgahinga and Bwindi
Impenetrable Forest
Conservation Trust**

Integrated Conservation and Development

- ☞ Widely adopted approach combining conservation and development objectives
- ☞ Development interventions can contribute to conservation objectives
- ☞ Little hard evidence on effectiveness
- ☞ Bwindi and Mgahinga pioneer sites for ICD, experience there was used to test ICD effectiveness

Context and rationale for ICD in Bwindi and Mgahinga NPs

- 📄 Gazetted as NPs in 1991
- 📄 Conflict and resistance from local population arose after gazettelement
- 📄 Subsequent threats included:
 - Illegal exploitation of forest resources
 - Fire: initially deliberate, later mainly from human activity (farming, honey gathering)
 - Pressures of demand for land (initially politically supported when the PAs were relatively new)
 - General negative attitudes towards the PAs and staff, (including violent attacks) threatening management effectiveness

Definition of ICD used in this assessment

An approach to the management and conservation of natural resources in areas of significant biodiversity that aims to reconcile biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development interests of multiple stakeholders at local, national and international level.

Aim of this study

- ☞ Test effectiveness of ICD interventions in reconciling biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development interests
 - By assessing whether interventions aimed at improving local livelihoods can also promote NR conservation
 - Identify mechanisms through which development interventions have conservation effect

ICD interventions around BMCA

- Review revealed that by 2001, 13 strategies had been implemented since 1980s
- 6 strategies were selected, criteria being:
 - Implemented to reconcile conservation and devt interests in NRM
 - Must have been implemented for at least 5yr

Livelihood Interventions in ICD

Decoupling/de-linking interventions

Interventions that provide alternative sources of livelihood that are not dependent on the resources in question, thereby reducing or eliminating dependence on the resource.

- Direct: tree planting that provides material substitutes for NRs
- Indirect: income generating activities not linked to NRs, infrastructure

Coupling/linking Interventions

Interventions that generate benefits derived from sustainable exploitation of the resources in question, and that “add value” to these resources, thereby acting as a conservation incentive.

- Direct: beekeeping, handicrafts and medicines based on NRs
- Indirect: conservation trust funds, tourism revenue sharing

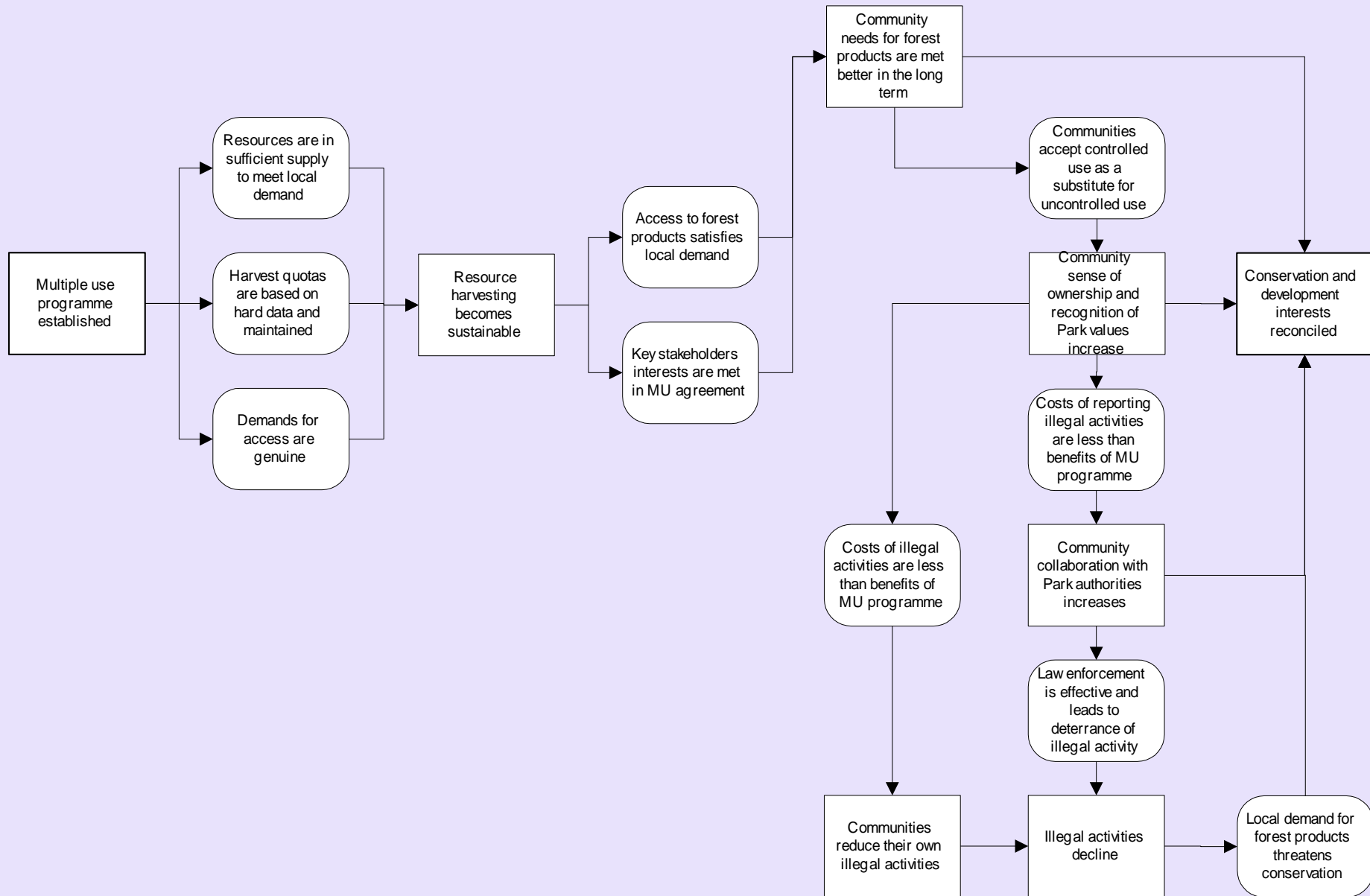
ICD interventions tested

	<i>PA resource dependent</i> <i>“coupling”</i>	<i>PA resource independent</i> <i>“de-coupling”</i>
<i>Indirect: Financial resources-based</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tourism• Revenue Sharing• Trust Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture
<i>Direct: Natural resource-based</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to forest resources (Multiple Use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substitution

The research process

- 📄 Conceptual models showing the various pathways used to link each of the 6 strategies with conservation impact were developed
- 📄 Key assumptions that must hold true for the pathways to be effective were identified
- 📄 The conceptual models provided framework for developing specific questions
 - to assess strategy effectiveness
 - test assumption validity

Models were developed for each strategy, e.g. Multiple use:



Research focused on:


- 📄 Impact on attitudes to conservation
- 📄 Impact on cooperation with PA authorities
 - Response to park fires
 - Reporting behaviour
- 📄 Impact on levels of illegal resource extraction
 - Through improved attitudes and cooperation
 - Through reduced need for PA resources

Data Sources

- 📄 Previous socio-economic and ecological research
- 📄 Community questionnaire interviews (573 people)
- 📄 Focus group discussions
 - Local communities
 - Organisation implementing ICDs
- 📄 In-depth interviews
 - PA staff (rangers survey, KII with wardens)
 - Local leaders
- 📄 Surveys of human impacts on the parks (ITFC)

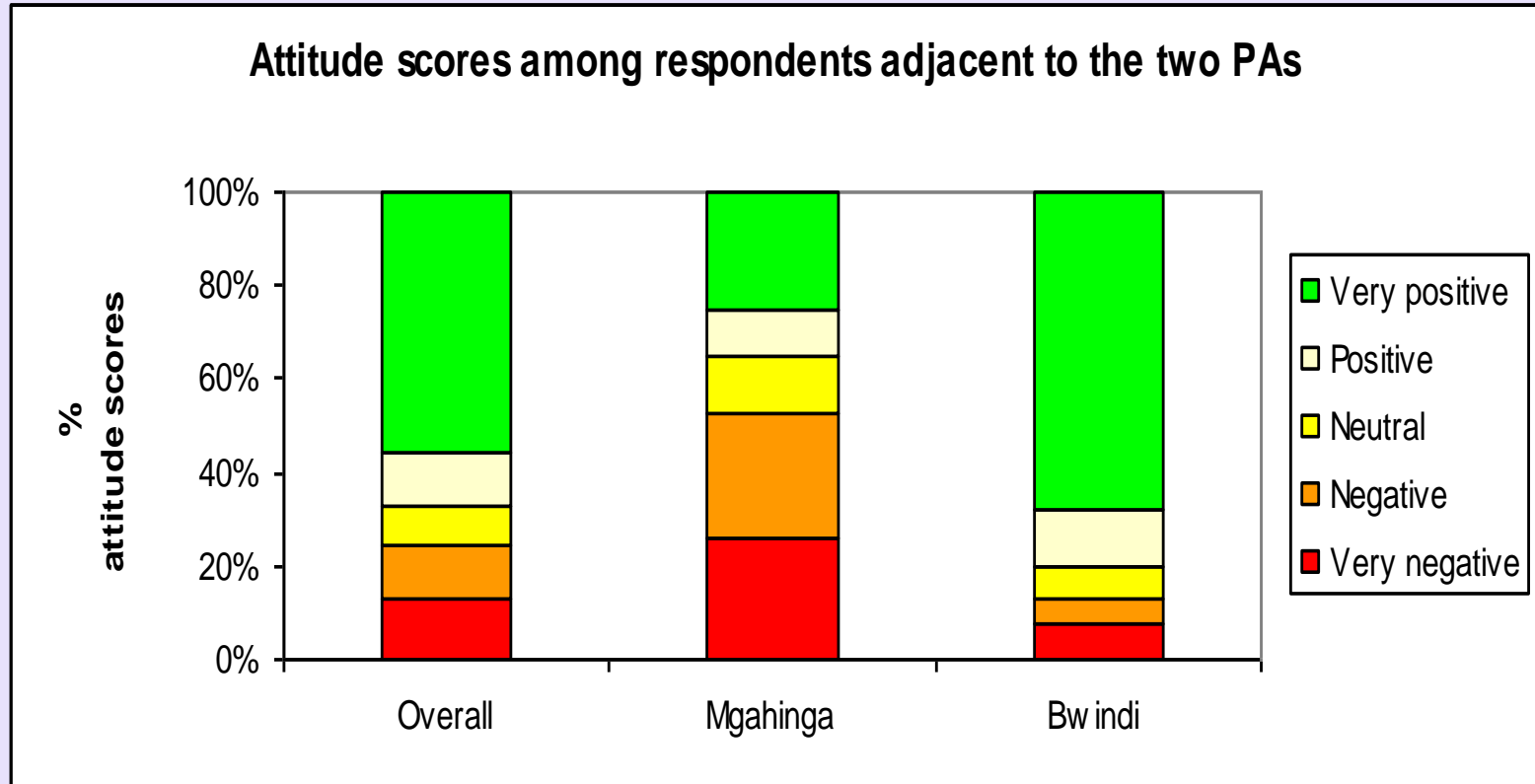
Results:

Attitudes towards conservation

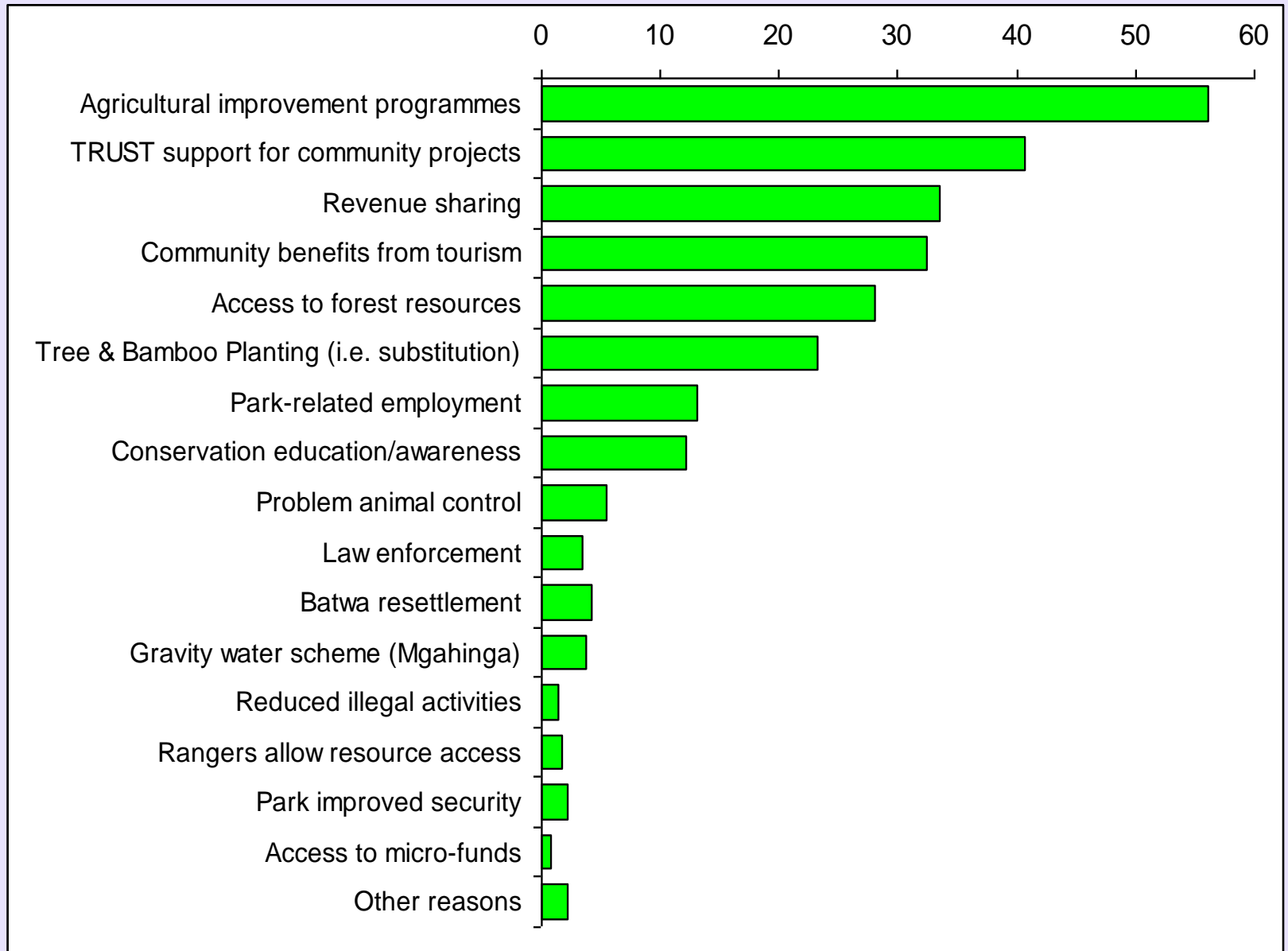
 Community attitudes have greatly improved since gazettement 10 yrs ago:

- An average of 76% of responses around Bwindi were pro-park, compared to 47% in 1992 (baseline)
- 66% of community respondents and all PA staff reported improved attitudes towards the park

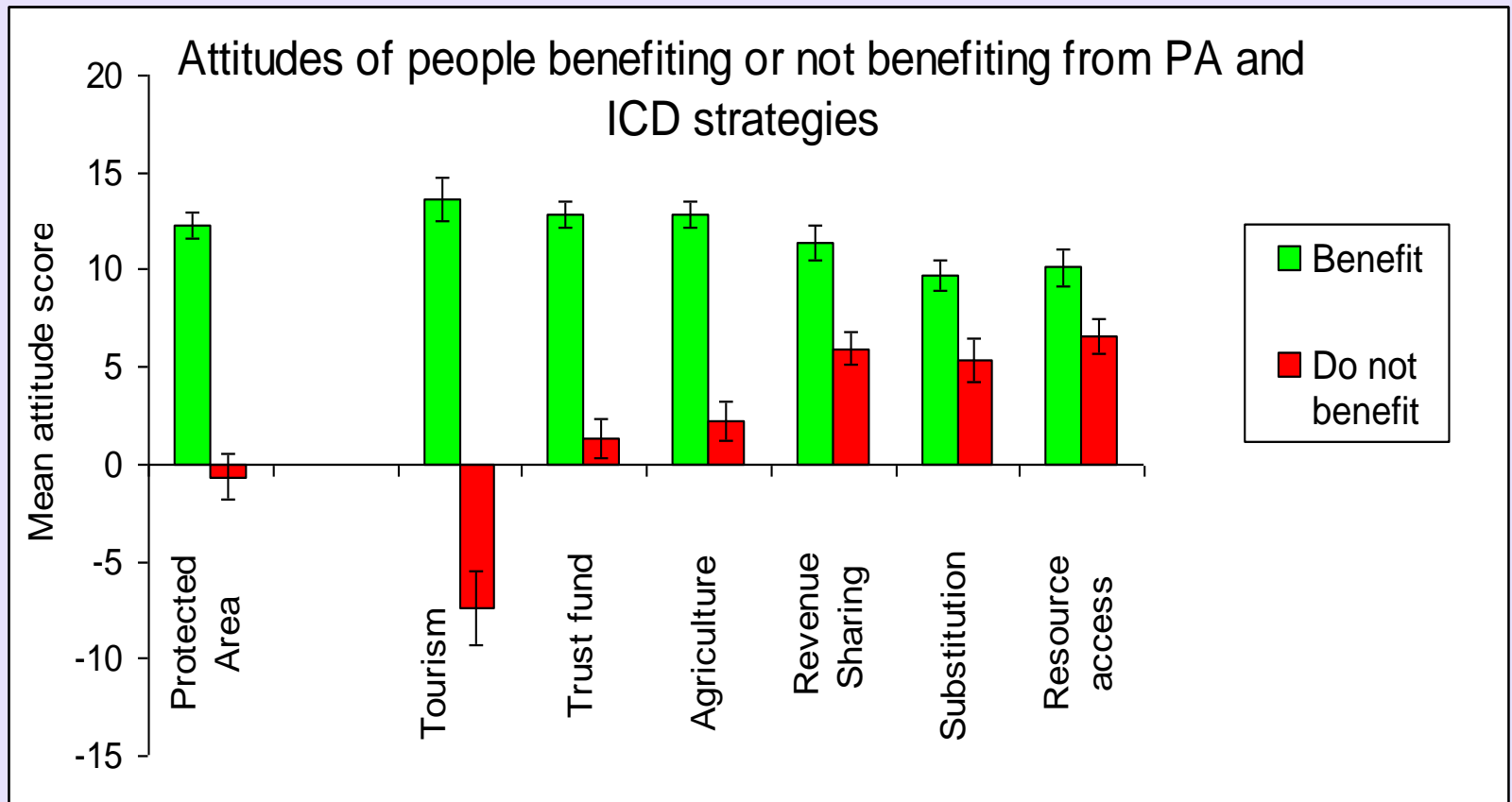
Community attitudes were more positive around BINP than MGNP



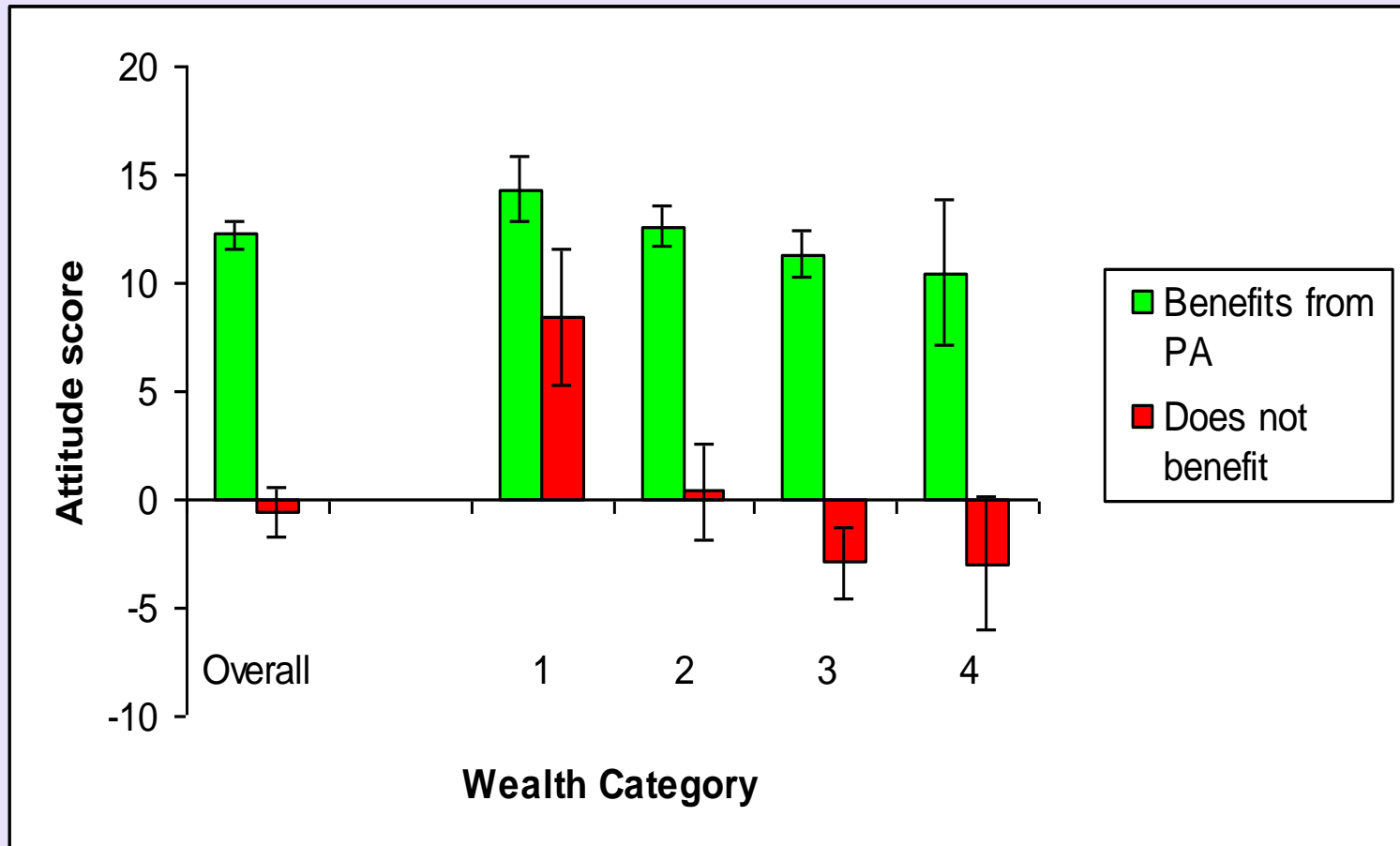
Factors cited as causes of improved attitudes (%)



Impacts of protected area benefits and ICD strategies on attitudes

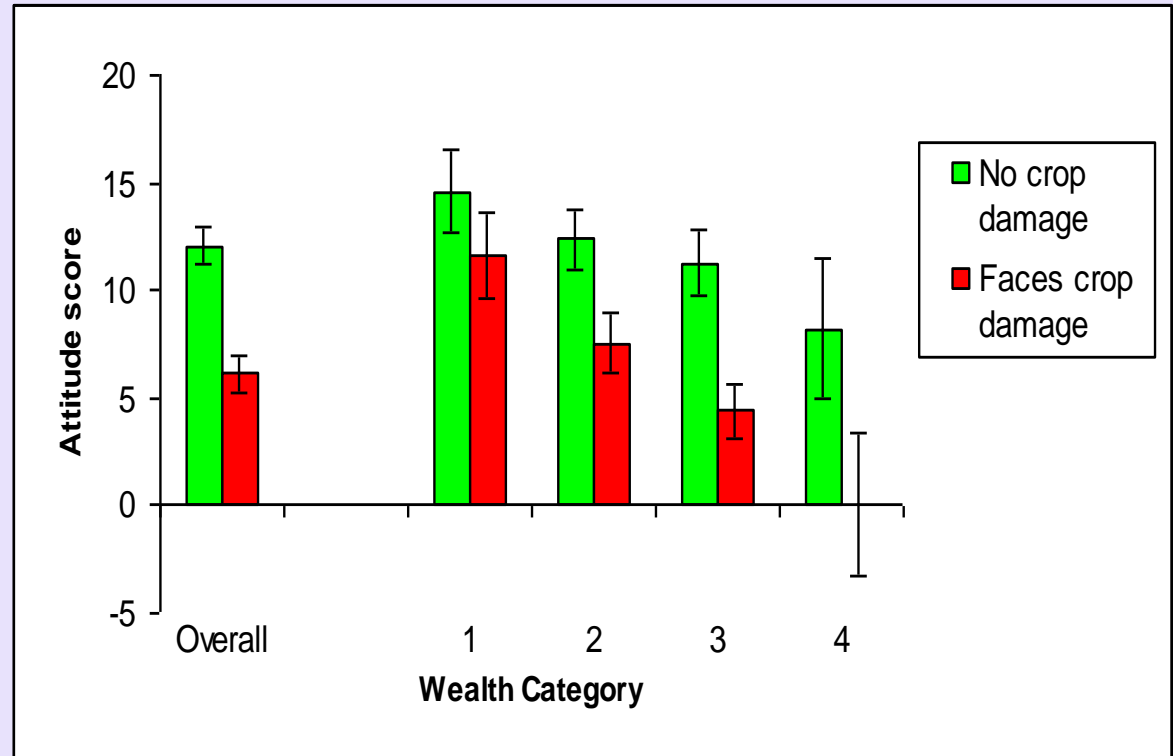


PA-linked benefits lead to higher level of attitude change among the poor than the richest people



Damage of crops by wildlife was a major cause of negative community attitudes

- ☰ Crop damage is experienced by all wealth categories
- ☰ However negative impact on attitudes is greater among poor than richer people



Co-operation with park authorities


📄 Improved, particularly willingness to assist in fire control

- 77% of community members and most PA staff indicated increased willingness to control fire

📄 Reporting illegal activities was also reported to have increased, but to a lesser extent

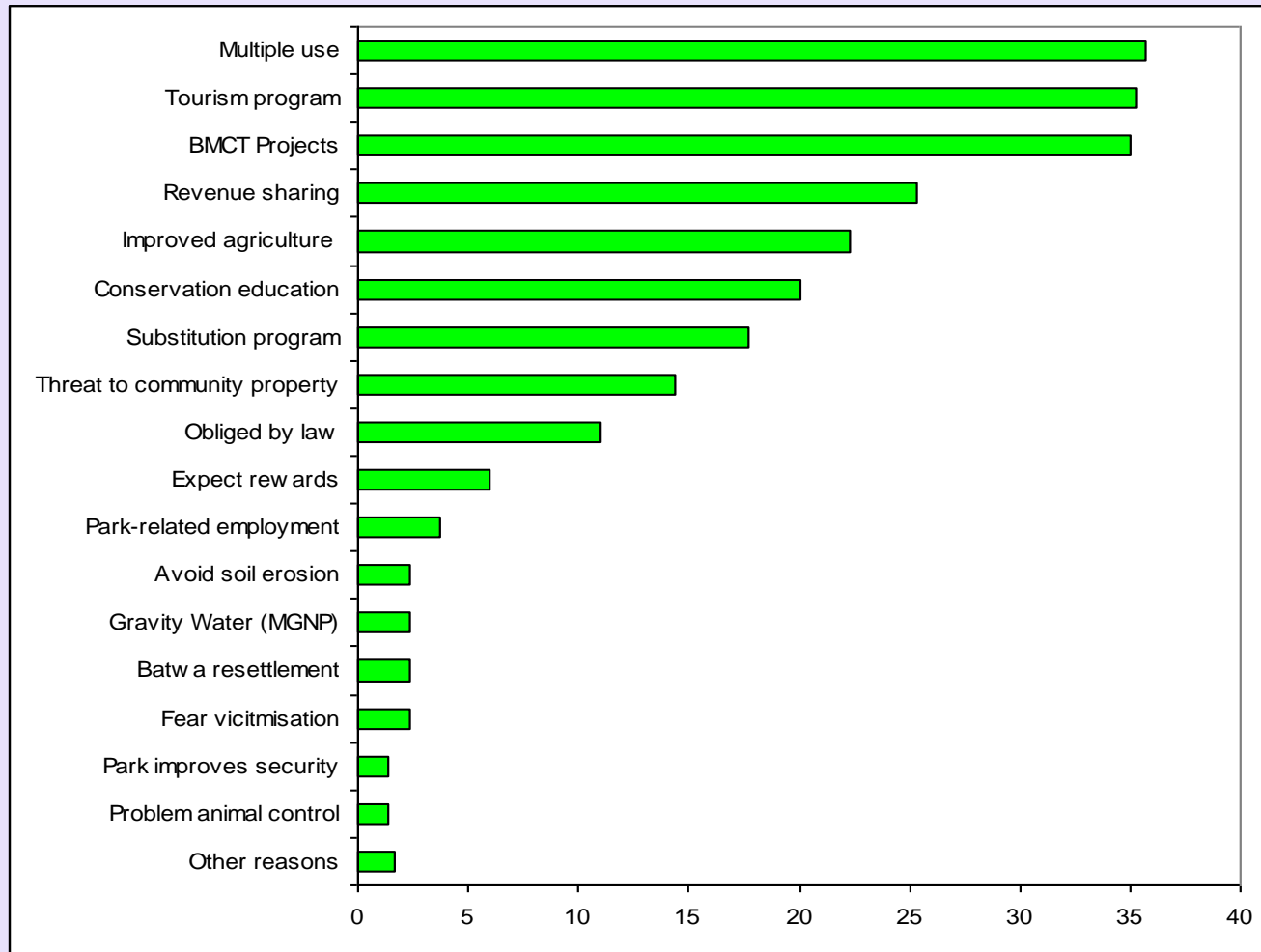
- 61.5% of community members and most PA staff indicated improved reporting behaviour

📄 Both attributed mainly to ICD interventions

 Difference in change btn fire control and reporting behavior was attributed to:

- Fire control largely treated as accidental, but illegal activities are “illegal” and subject to heavy penalties
- Fires have potential to spread outside the park
- The social cost associated with reporting family and community members are too high for both the reporter and the accused

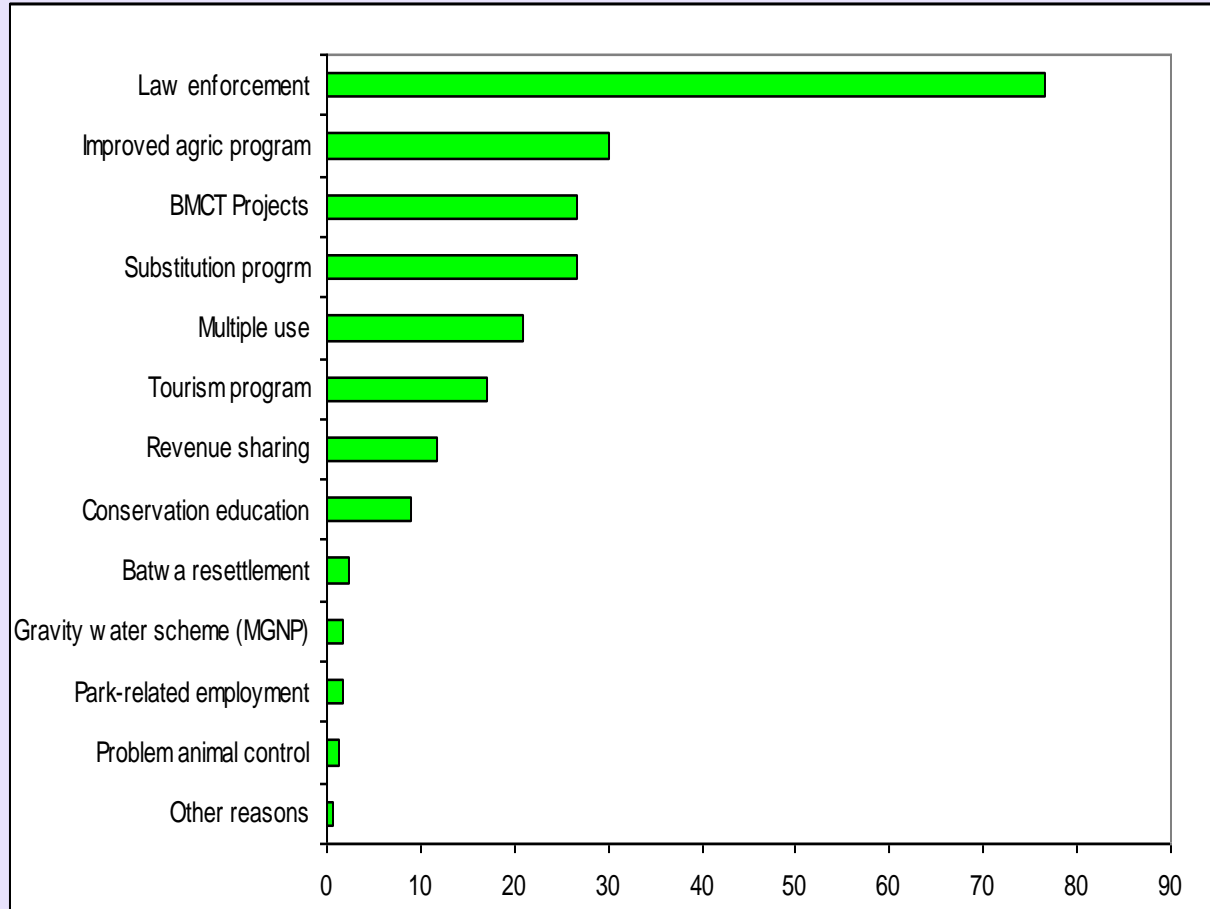
Factors cited for improved community fire control practice




Community involvement in illegal activities

- ☞ 71% of the community & most park staff indicated a decrease in illegal activities
- ☞ However, evidence from ecological surveys the park is less clear
 - Lower than during 1980s
 - But there is still evidence of significant levels (including in resource access zones)
- ☞ Community reluctant to implicate themselves, & Park staff reluctant to imply they are not doing their job
- ☞ Other studies however indicate that illegal activities are now mostly carried out by the poor, for subsistence (previously done for commercial purposes in the past)

Factors cited as causes of decrease in illegal activities:



What had ICD achieved in BMCA?

 ICD had increased support for conservation and therefore has at least the potential to:

- Change working relationship between PA and community
- Increase community tolerance of law enforcement
- Reduce cost of law enforcement

What has ICD achieved in BMCA? (cont'd)

- ☞ ICD had reduced at least some of the threats to the 2 PAs, through increasing support to conservation
 - Fires
 - Politically driven threats
 - demand for degazettement, roads through the PAs no longer popular as campaign message for aspiring politicians
- ☞ But there was no evidence that ICD had directly reduced communities' needs for forest resources and levels of illegal activities

Underlying factors for the performance of ICD in BMCA


1. Long-term institutional presence of external agencies & funding (e.g. CARE, IGCP, BMCT, ITFC)

- 📄 Complementarities & partnerships b/n agencies
- 📄 Relationships and mutual trust built with UWA and L. Govt,
- 📄 Enables implementers to continually adapt strategies according to increased understanding of the local context

2. Institutionalization of project approaches

 Decreased external funding and implementation

- e.g MU mainstreamed into UWA CC program & implemented in other CAs as well

 Increased involvement of private sector in tourism, rolls out the benefits

- Agriculture program not taken up by government
=> sustainability of its conservation impact??

3. Understanding of nature of conservation threats in important

- ☞ Common cause of ICD ineffectiveness
- ☞ The threats in BMCA after gazettelement were largely local, thus the ICD interventions were correctly focused
- ☞ But impact was delivered thru pathways not initially anticipated
 - MU (led to sustainable use of PA resources, BUT DID NOT improve LE through community self-policing and increased reporting)
 - Agriculture (improved attitudes and building local support for conservation, BUT DID NOT reduce illegal activities by providing alternatives)
- ☞ In general, ICD had limited impact on reduction of illegal activities : **effective law enforcement is essential to back up ICD**

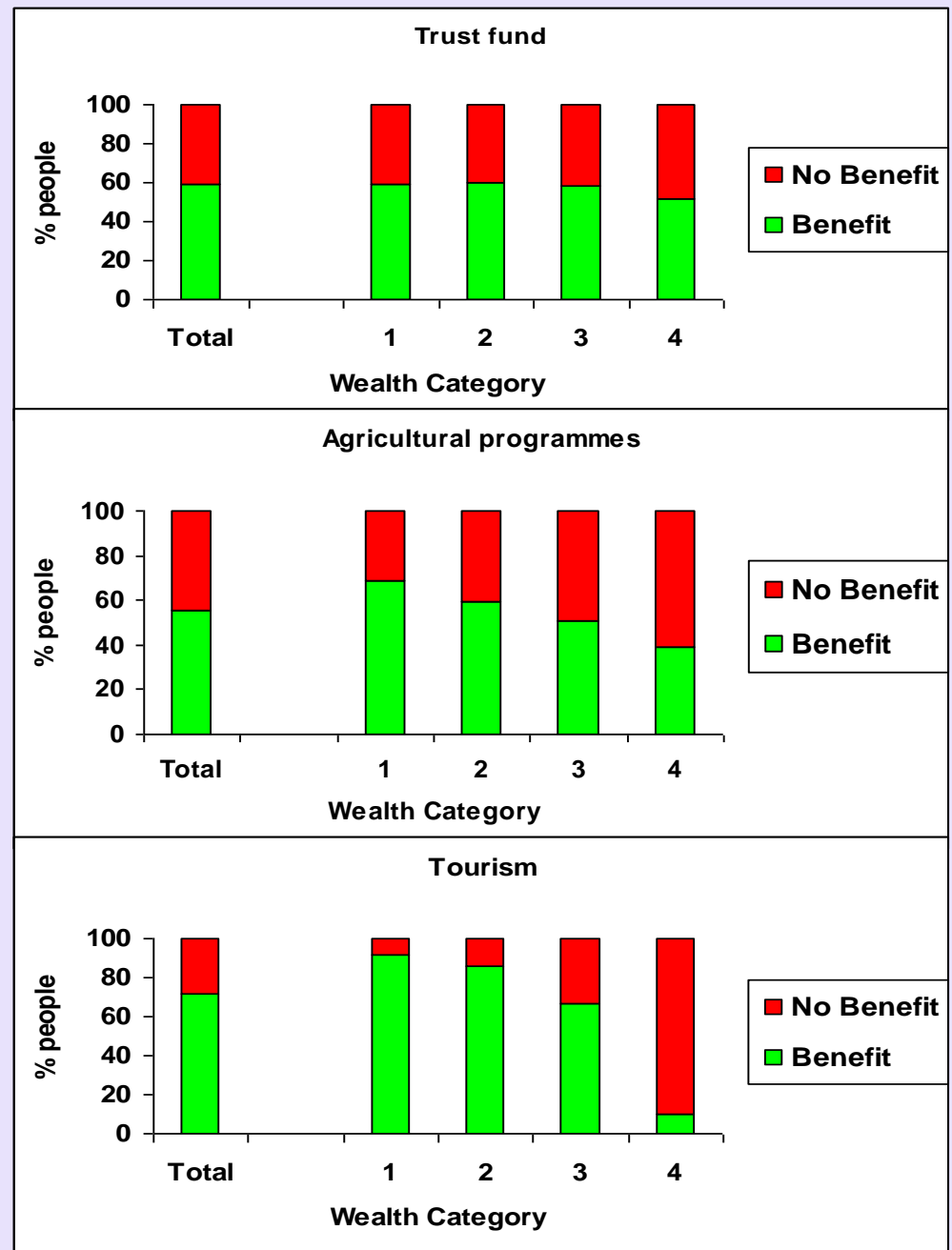
4. Importance of making explicit links btw C&D

- ☞ Beneficiaries need to make conceptual link btw C&D
- ☞ Interventions with clear conceptual link (tourism, Multiple use) easily yielded conservation outcomes
- ☞ Link was not clear agriculture and BMCT social infrastructure projects, but effort was made to create this link
 - Demonstrate that support of priority devt needs (even if not necessarily associated with conservation) can actually contribute to conservation objectives (through influencing attitudes)

5. Targeting all relevant stakeholders is difficult

The poorest were are not effectively reached by some ICD interventions

- ICD could have been better targeted towards poorer sections of the communities to maximize C&D outcomes



6. Magnitude of intervention

- ☞ Interventions that would significantly reduce peoples' direct need for forest resources are likely to be very large, and maybe unrealistic to expect ICD to achieve this in typical project span
- ☞ Some ICD interventions are by nature location specific (e.g. tourism), thus limiting their impact
 - Will change as tourism is getting spread around BINP

7. Increase in benefits \neq reduction in costs

- ☰ Crop damage remained a serious challenge
- ☰ Level of intervention in PAM was not commensurate to level of investment in ICD
- ☰ Majority around BMCA still perceived conservation costs to $>$ benefits, thus better to live away from the PAs that adjacent

