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Regulating the commons in Mauritania :

Local agreements as a tool for
sustainable natural resource
management

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Problems and the solution

Overexploitation and degradation of commonly used NR

Conflicts caused by access to NR

The need for regulation is not satisfied

- **neither by traditional rules**
- **nor by nationalization of resources and state management**

Decentralized management of renewable natural resources by local communities

LAs as a management tool

- **Based on traditional rules**
- **Fitting in the framework of existing national laws**
- **Combined with an technical evaluation of feasible removals**
- **Negotiated with all stakeholders**



LAs : Definition

Local Agreements are a set of written regulations negotiated between different stakeholders

- Those holding rights
(traditional authorities + users)
- Authorized users
- Administration
- Local government

to promote equitable and sustainable natural resource management



Mauritania

Access conflicts between agriculturalists + pastoralists and among pastoralists

Legal pluralism : traditional (tribal + Islamic) rules as well as French 'Code Napoleon' based modern law

Population growth and sedentarization of former nomads

Opportunity: the new Code Pastoral provides for decentralized local NRM



Legitimacy

Process of negotiations including all stakeholders

the co-signatures of the right holders, the representatives of all other authorized users and the administration

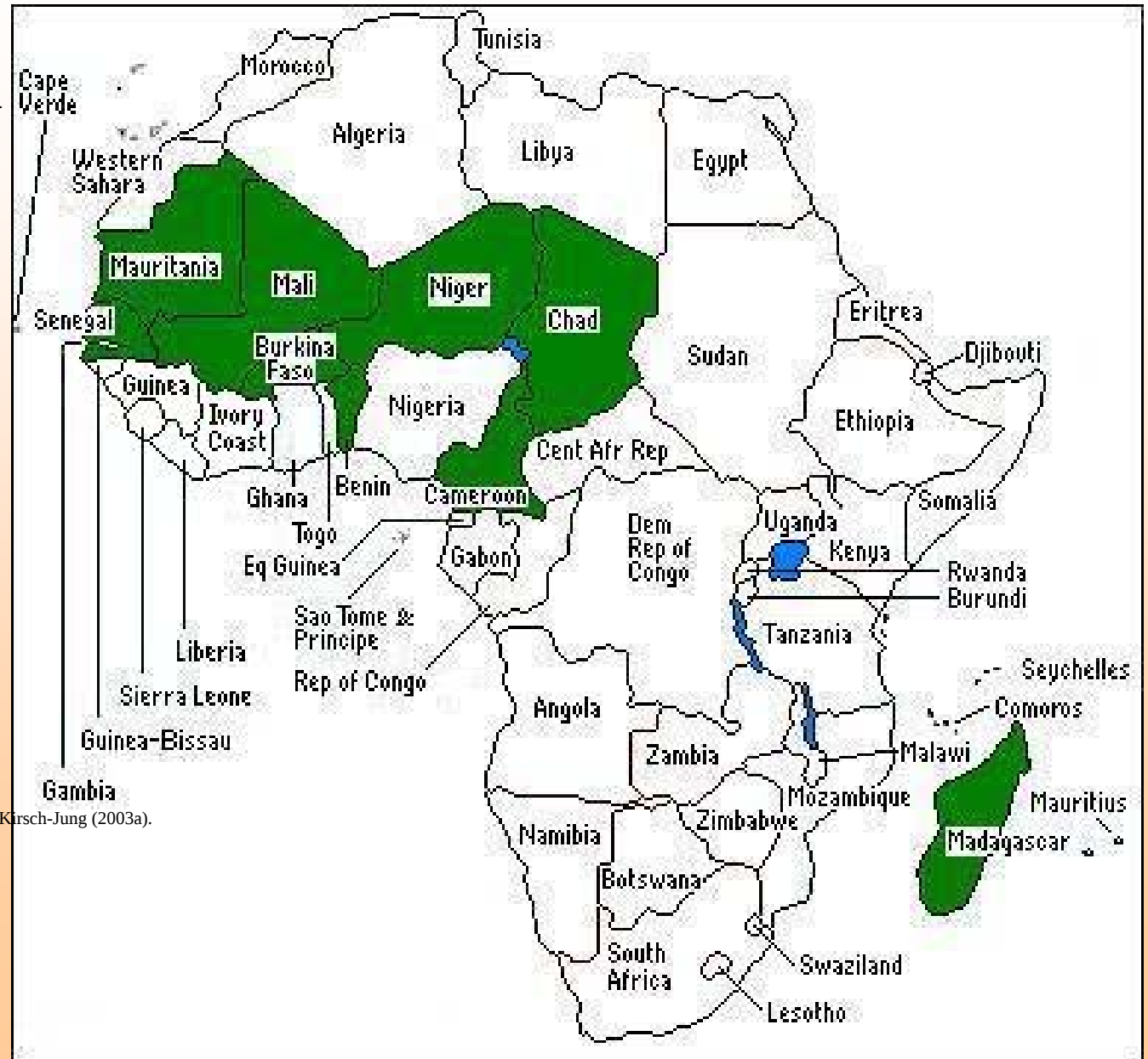
The respect of the regulations depends heavily on the quality of the negotiation process



African countries with LAs



Map 1



Source: Kirsch-Jung (2003a).



Natural Resource Management Program of GTZ (ProGRN)

Overall goal:

The local population in selected areas become organized around managing key natural resources sustainably

Significant feature:

Linking policy advice to the government with decentralized efforts at the local level

Objective:

Decentralized NRM in two regions aims at concluding by 2007 at least 10 LAs

The approach

Responsibility for collective mgt. is transferred from the state to local entities (NRM organizations)

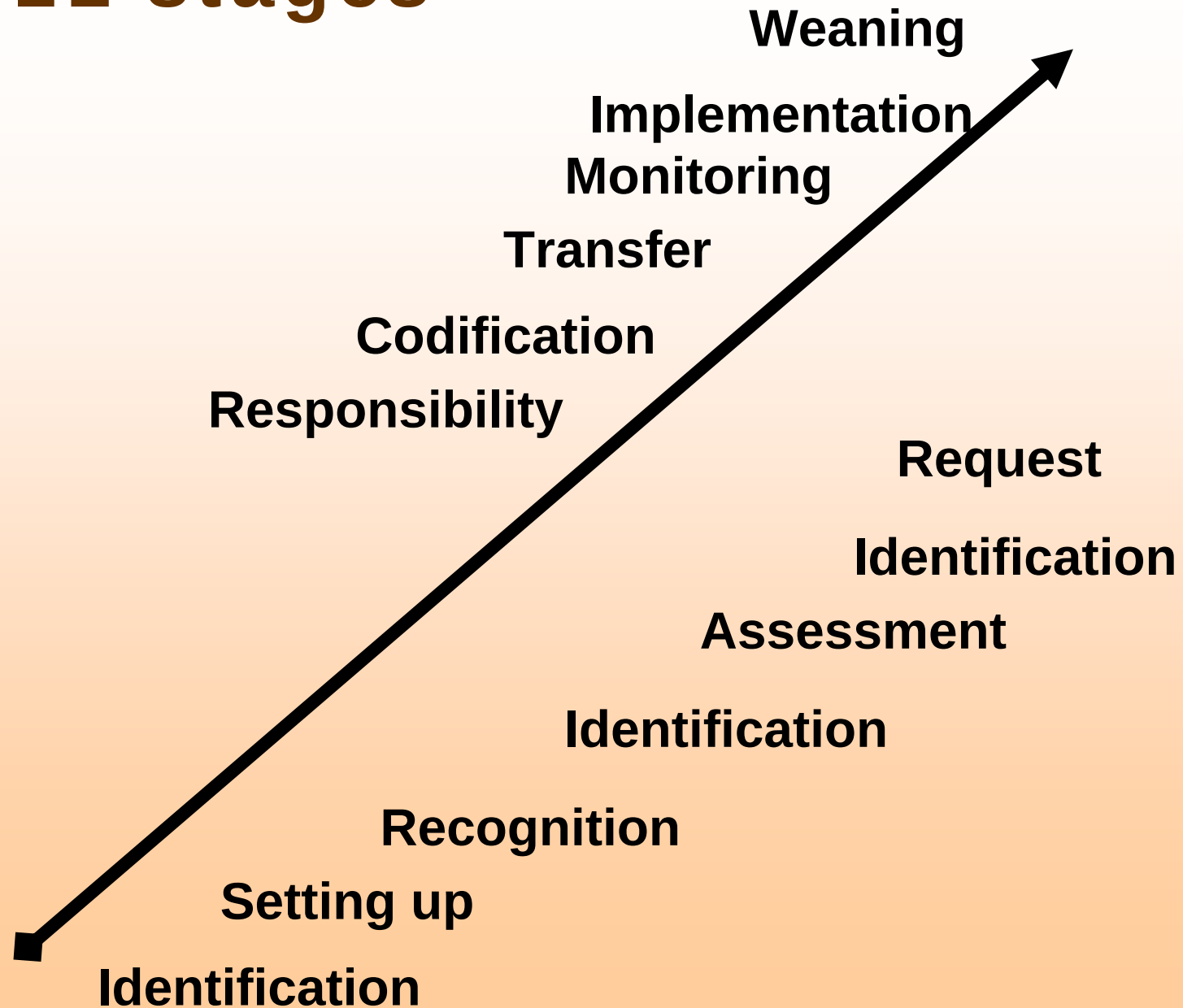
ProGRN advises recognized NRM organizations in preparing an LA

Advice and guidance regarding alternative ways of sustainable resource utilization and protection

Monitoring of the effectiveness of local management



12 stages



Conclusions

Decentralized NRM has become a reality thru local agreements

They are means to reconcile traditional (tribal + Islamic) and modern law as well as to adapt NRM to social change

Their efficiency depends on the process of negotiation + the formalization by all stakeholders





Les impacts socio-économiques de la gestion décentralisée des ressources naturelles

La contribution des conventions locales à la lutte contre la pauvreté



<http://cbtnrm.net/resources/tools/la>

http://www2.gtz.de/desert/download/impact_convention_locales.pdf

<http://www.eco-consult.com/glc/>