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Opportunities and Constraints for local IWRM innovations: The case of local water committee in Burkina Faso

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Session: Learning to Innovate

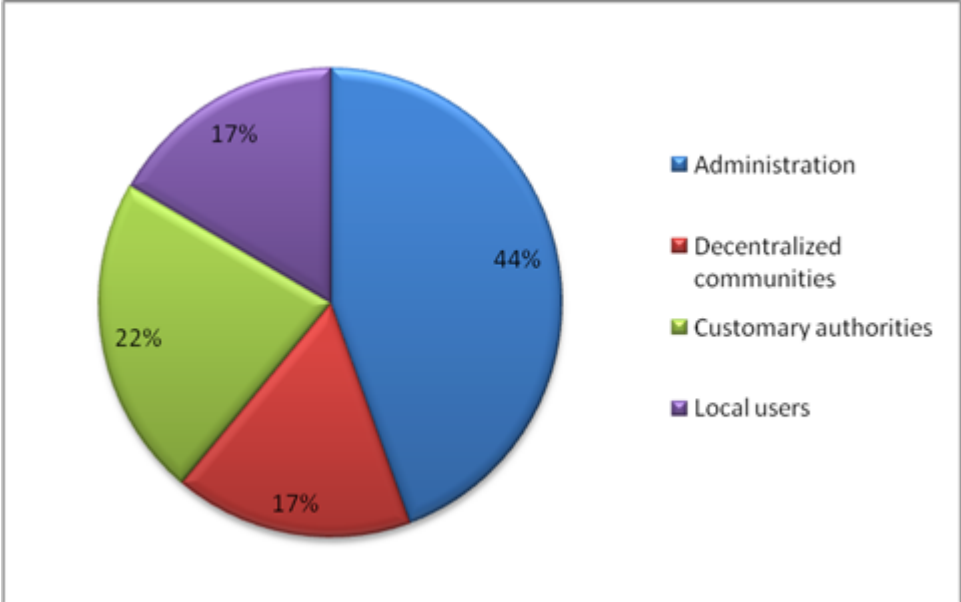
Key Message

Local Water Committees (CLE) are innovative structures for IWRM in the West African context. So that the full effect of these committees can be attained, recognizing existing power plays and capacity building of various stakeholders is necessary.

Summary

Over the last 15 years, Burkina Faso has undertaken institutional reforms in its water sector. Among the innovations was the adoption of an IWRM Action Plan, including the creation of local water committees (CLE). This study is a diagnosis of ten of these CLEs. The consideration given to deconcentrated technical services, decentralized government, local users, and NGOs could institute the CLE as an adaptive platform for consultation and democratic decision-making over natural resources management. Yet, the study points to complex power-play right from the implementation stages of the CLE, and notably, the abuse of power by administrative and customary authorities. This has tremendous impacts on what the CLE can actually achieve, once it has been officially created. There is a need for building the capacity of the small-size consultancy companies that have been overseeing the creation of the CLE and to financially support the committees themselves for the conduct of their activities. New

and innovative financing mechanisms that would run alongside the current policy of decentralization- need to be devised. Further, clarifying the area under the authority of the CLE is also needed.



FREQUENCY OF STRATEGIC POSITIONS: THIS CHART SHOWS THE REPRESENTATION OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS OF WATER IN THE CLE. THE ADMINISTRATION TAKES MUCH OF THE DECISION-MAKING POSITION FOLLOWED BY THE CUSTOMARY AUTHORITIES. THIS ILLUSTRATES THE HAND-SETTING OF THESE TWO STRUCTURES ON THE CLE.