

## CBFiM – in sum

CBFiM has been implemented and practised in its various iterations for the better part of two decades. Examples of CBFiM can be found globally from Asia to Latin America (Kurtulmuslu and Yazici, 2000; Alvarado, Rosales and Aguilar, 2001; Dampha, 2001; Goldammer and Abberger, 2001; Zhang *et al.*, 2003; FAO, 2003; FAO, 2011; London, 2001; Nanda and Sutar, 2001). However, the sheer number of CBFiM applications does not necessarily equate to the successful long-term implementation of this approach. More work is needed to promote CBFiM as a viable approach to fire management, particularly in those places where communities, fire, natural resource management and conservation efforts coexist. There is also a need to advocate for the inclusion of CBFiM, and fire management in general, in the broader field of landscape and natural resource management and rural development. Attention needs to be placed on creating favorable environments in which CBFiM can thrive. Capacity and resources need to be bolstered to ensure the sustainability of CBFiM following implementation. In order for any of these issues to be addressed properly, the major factors limiting the effective and sustainable implementation of CBFiM should first be identified. Only then can appropriate strategies be designed to strengthen, expand and modify CBFiM approaches.

### LIMITING FACTORS

There has now been more than a decade of focused effort on CBFiM; the subject has been the topic for an international conference, specific training and a number of case studies, and has been promoted and facilitated by FAO. Despite the effort, the materials and the logic of engaging communities in the management of fire in their local environment, progress has stalled. How can CBFiM become more of an integral component in natural resource management? Why has it not done so in the last decade? There is no easy solution or response to these questions given the many challenges in terms of implementing effective and sustainable CBFiM approaches. To be properly addressed, these limitations are best examined and evaluated within the individual contexts in which they occur. Some of the current known limitations on CBFiM include the following:

**Lack of policy and law** – In many instances adequate and appropriate fire-related policy and law do not exist. In the face of changing land use and an increasing population, policy that will address, realistically, the needs of communities that use fire is required. It is a complex issue for governments to endorse deliberate fire use when the regulatory framework, the planning and operational capacity, and the operational resources of its agencies are limited in various ways.

**Lack of capacity** – Communities often lack the analysis, planning, training and equipment necessary to manage fire effectively. In many instances the same constraints are faced by government fire management agencies, which may also lack skills, training, equipment, data and processes for analysis themselves.

**Lack of localized training opportunities** – CBFiM-related and -focused training programmes that are designed to address the needs and circumstances of participants at national to local scales are not always available. Some of the skills needed are related not only to fire, but may also include record-keeping, meeting facilitation and other abilities involved in bringing people together to work collaboratively.

**Lack of incentives** – Incentives need to be in place in order for CBFiM to be effective and sustainable. Communities need clear land access and use rights, government representatives need to receive adequate compensation, and communities have to be able to see clear benefits from their participation in responsible landscape and fire-management. Care should be taken that incentives do not distort performance by unbalancing responses or stimulating activity that is not consistent with a holistic approach to the landscape.

**Poor promotion of CBFiM concepts and approaches** – CBFiM needs to be promoted as a viable approach and solution to effective fire management in those instances where anthropogenic fire adversely impacts project goals and objectives. Information regarding CBFiM applications and approaches, particularly scientific research, needs to be transferred to field managers and other end users effectively. Such effective transfer requires that information be clear, concise and in a format that land managers and practitioners can easily access, understand and implement.

**Lack of funding to implement CBFiM** – A lack of adequate funding will always be a constraint in the long-term implementation of natural resource projects. CBFiM capacity-building using a national, as opposed to a regional, focus could be a starting point for developing materials to assist participants in identifying and securing potential sources of funding.

Consideration needs to be given to each of these challenges in order to develop appropriate and effective strategies for increasing the promotion of CBFiM as a viable approach to fire management. Each implementation of CBFiM will have its own specific challenges that will require unique approaches and solutions. That each implementation will be unique further underscores the significance of scale-sensitive approaches in CBFiM training, capacity-building and implementation efforts.

## **PARTNERS AND COLLABORATION**

CBFiM requires collaboration, and that collaboration is essential for the development of strong and effective partnerships both within and outside the community. Collaborative partnerships with communities, the private sector,

NGOs, governments and their affiliated agencies can provide the knowledge, resources and other inputs that are necessary for successful CBFiM implementation. These local partnerships can, in turn, be effective mechanisms for linking to national and even regional partnerships, allowing for increased technical support and a potential increase in other necessary resources.

### **TOOLS AND RESOURCES**

A continued effort needs to be made in the development of tools and resources designed to assist CBFiM practitioners to implement CBFiM effectively in the long term. Any materials developed should be tailored as necessary to meet the needs of practitioners in a multitude of contexts and situations. There exists a significant body of information that describes CBFiM. To date, however, this information has not been conveyed effectively to resource managers and end users with the express purpose of increasing awareness and helping to create environments suitable for the sustainable implementation of CBFiM. The success of CBFiM as an effective fire-management approach cannot be measured only by how many projects are funded or by how many research papers are generated, but must also be measured by how critical information from research efforts is conveyed successfully to resource managers and end users with the express purpose of improving fire management decisions. The focus should be on developing materials applicable to, and understood by, a wide range of audiences, including community members (elders, men, women and children), NGOs, the private sector and government at all levels.

