

Notes from the Policy Break-out Groups - Thursday 17 July 2003
Workshop on
Learning from Community Action to Realise the Millennium Development Goals,
13-18 July 2003, Kenya

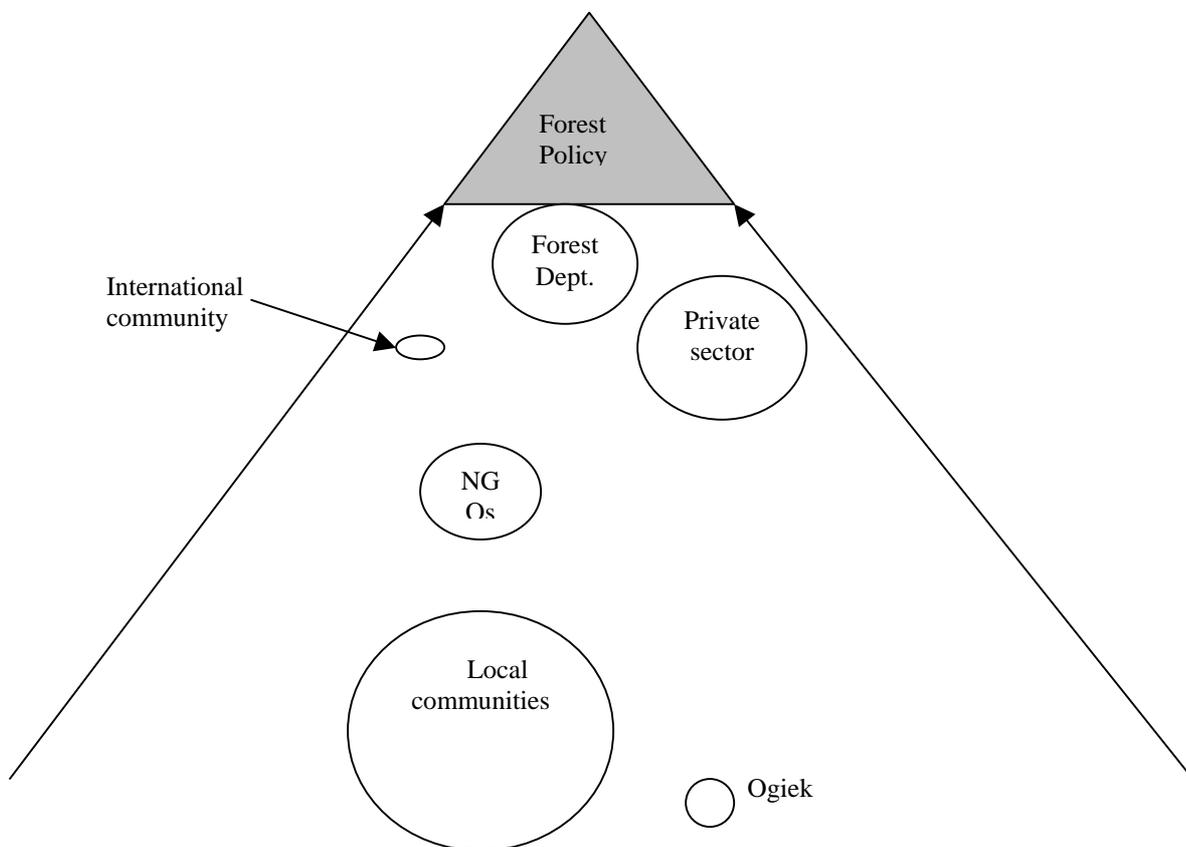
Group 1 – Forest policy and the Ogiek in the Mau Forest, Kenya

The Ogiek are an indigenous hunter-gatherer group living in the Mau Forest. The government has taken control of the forest and wildlife that the Ogiek depend on ('colonial and post-colonial injustice'). They feel neglected by national policy and programmes (eg. lack of support from local authority programmes), and are still fighting for recognition by the government, including recognition of their rights to natural resources.

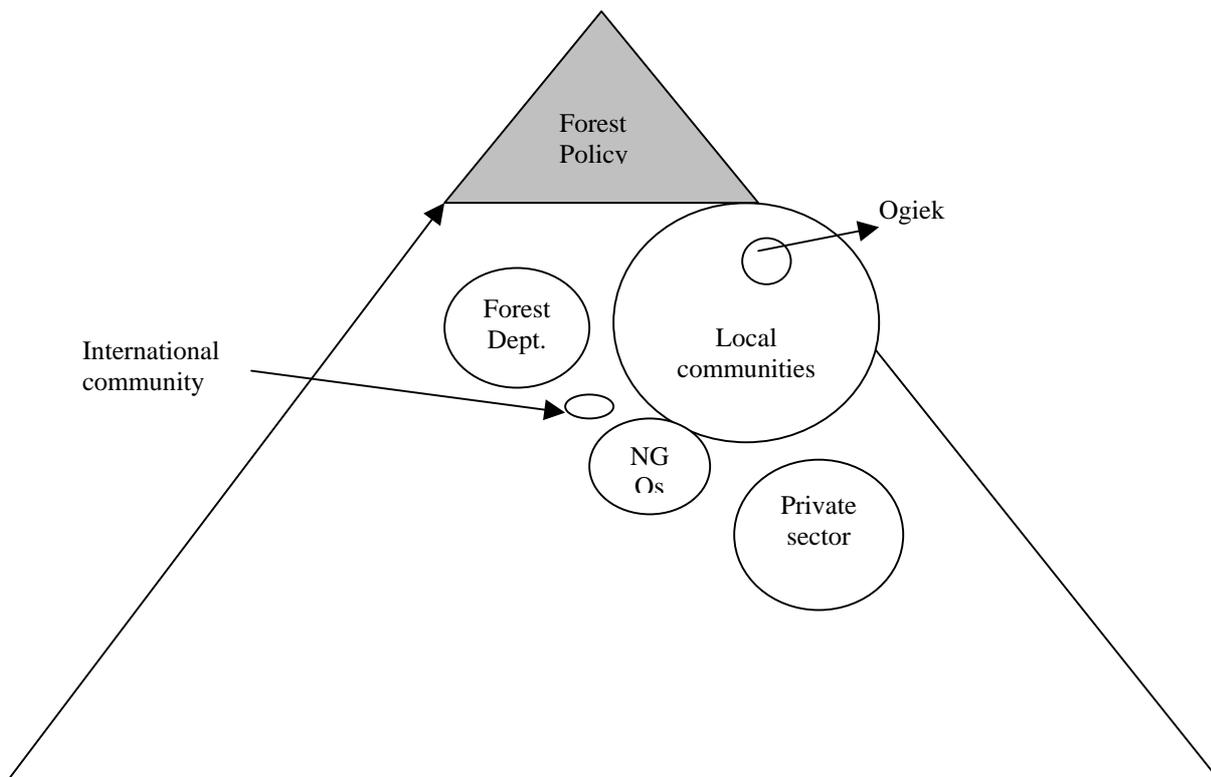
Actors – in descending order of size:

1. Local communities (not including the Ogiek)
2. Private sector (private companies and interests)
3. Forest Department
4. NGOs
5. The Ogiek
6. International community (especially Egypt)

'Where we are now' - current situation with respect to forest policy



‘Where we want to be’ - desired situation:



The Ogiek and ‘other’ local communities (a separate and much larger group) are currently right at the bottom of the triangle – ie. they have very little, if any, policy influence. The Ogiek do not have a close relationship with ‘other communities’.

The Ogiek feel they should be at the top of the triangle – ie. very close to policy – because they really want to work to manage the forest, and they have a strong stake in it as they live in it. They would also like to have a closer relationship with other communities (be inside the community circle) – and play a central role in the group (at the top of the circle).

The international community has a fairly strong influence over forest policy - Egypt puts pressure on the government to protect the forest as it provides a source of water for the Nile.

How to get to the desired situation?

In order to have more influence over forest policy, the Ogiek need to:

- Form alliances with other local communities (but not inter-marry – assimilation is their biggest fear).
- Participate in policy fora: they are trying to get integrated in the constitutional review committee, and have some possibility of achieving this (an influential ally). They are also aiming to gain representation on another government committee/process.
- Show their contribution to biodiversity in the Mau escarpment in order to increase recognition of their right to stay there.

- Make the government realise that they can make policy (or contribute to policy making), with the assistance of Councillors and MPs.

Group 2 – CACID and Protected Area policy in the Waza-Lagone Floodplain, Cameroon

CACID, an NGO, has rehabilitated the Waza-Lagone floodplain in Northern Cameroon and provides support for community development around the floodplain and the adjacent UNESCO biosphere reserve (an area with approx. 100,000 inhabitants). One policy that has had a major effect on their work is the 1992 co-management policy (enacted in law) introduced for the Biosphere Reserve as a ‘pilot’ policy. This new policy replaced the former policy of government control, which had been in place since the 1960s, where the park was managed by the Environment Department. The park is now managed by a regional Committee for co-management, the Management and Consultation Committee (MCC), and the land belongs jointly to the state and the local community. But before it became a national park in colonial times, the land belonged to the local community. Forest legislation is also a key policy for CACID’s work.

Actors – in descending order of size

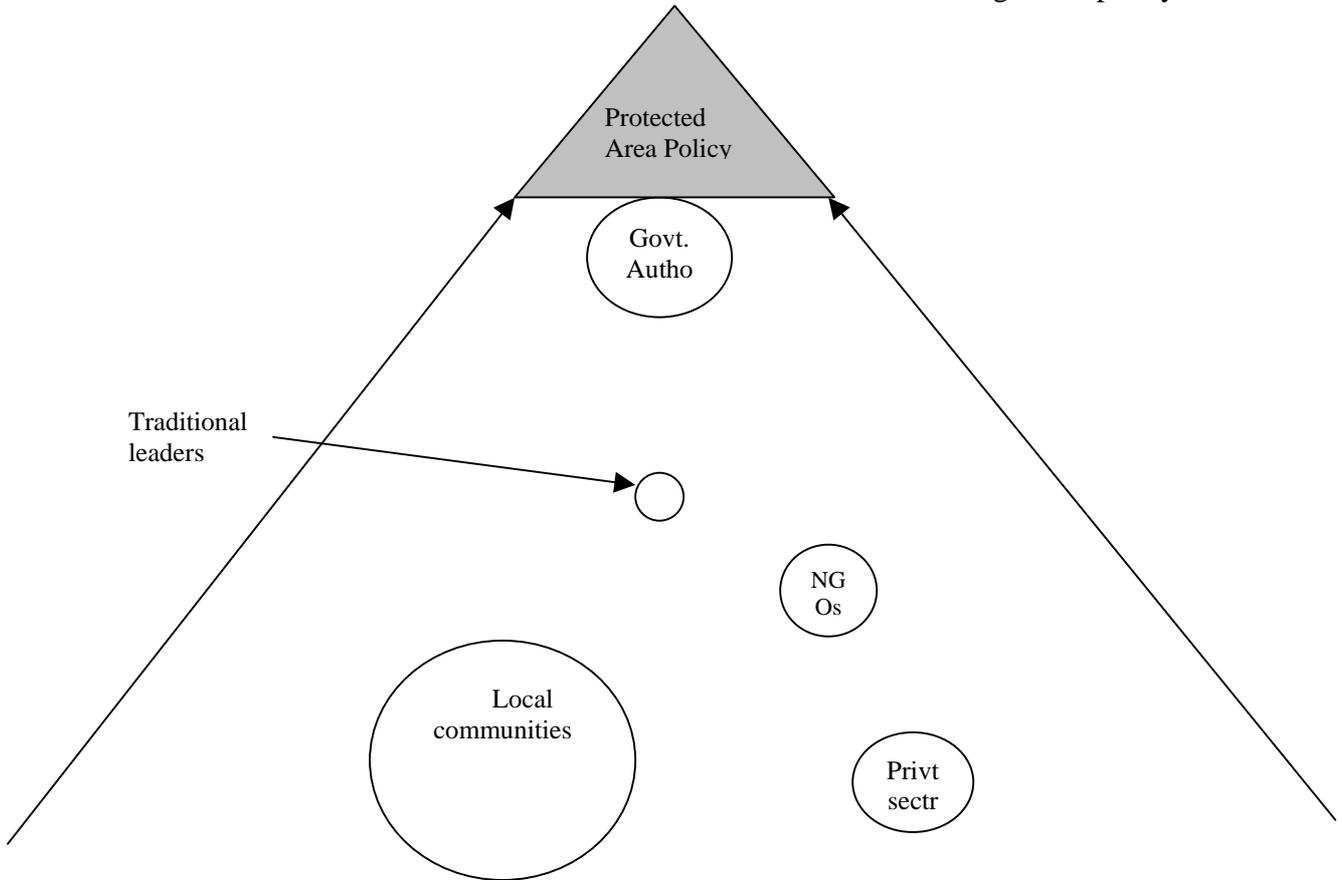
1. Local communities
2. Management and Consultation Committee (50% women)
3. Government authorities
4. Private sector
5. NGOs
6. CBOs (50% women)
7. Traditional leaders

The group produced a policy influence map for the situation before the co-management policy was introduced, and another map to show the situation now.

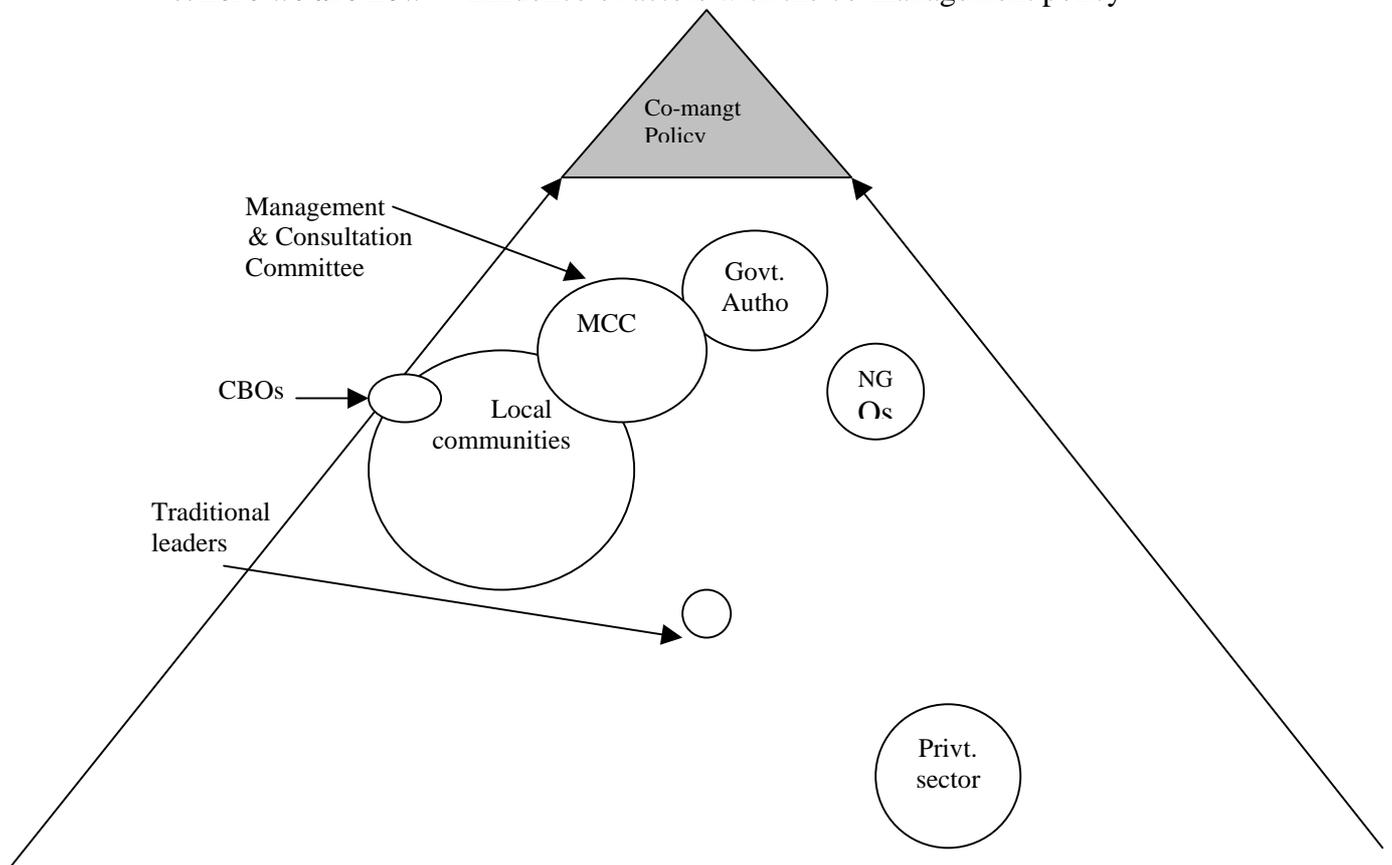
Since the policy change, communities and NGOs have far more influence over policy, and the government has less influence than before. Private sector influence has more or less stayed the same but this group has grown in size. (Tourism agencies are a relevant actor as the project includes a community-run ecotourism village, with 40% of revenues going to communities).

In these diagrams (see next page), the distance between the different actors does not necessarily reflect the strength of their relationship – the group only focused on mapping relative influence over policy.

“Where we were before” - Influence of actors before the co-management policy



“Where we are now” - Influence of actors with the co-management policy



Group Discussion

- The policy change came about as a result of impact studies which highlighted that the government was not successful in managing the park. Local communities also worked hard to bring about the change (especially women). Decentralisation also helped in introducing the new management system (Cameroon very decentralised, at least on paper).
- Local communities and NGOs convinced the government to set up a Management and Consultation Committee, linked to local committees – the MCC includes community representatives, government, NGO, and a linked scientific committee.
- Another province is now introducing a similar co-management policy – but such a policy is not in place at national level.

Group 4 -

Government policy that affects local biodiversity-based enterprise

- Enterprise extension policy exists but currently results in patchy, badly resourced and badly managed extension advice.
- Government needs to be more effective at influencing the relationship between investors and communities – primarily to prevent communities from being ripped off.

Actors – in descending order of size

1. Communities
2. Local community institutions
3. Private sector retailers, wholesalers and supermarkets
4. Consumers
5. NGOs local
6. Middle-men individuals
7. International institutions
8. Micro-finance and finance agencies
9. Politicians
10. Government
11. Research institutions
12. The president

[Attach: “Now” and “What we want” diagrams]

How to get there:

- Better research on current policy situation
- Awareness raising about current policy influences and its deficiencies
- Advocacy on specific issues to stimulate a process of policy improvement
- Development of an improved policy which has some bite on the outside investor-community relationship and creates the sort of partnerships illustrated in the “what we want” diagram

- Produce guidance on how to proceed – tailored for all actors
- Capacity building on a wide range of partnership-building skills
- Develop partner-to-partner agreements and alliances

Group 5 - HIV/AIDS policy in Kenya and Uganda

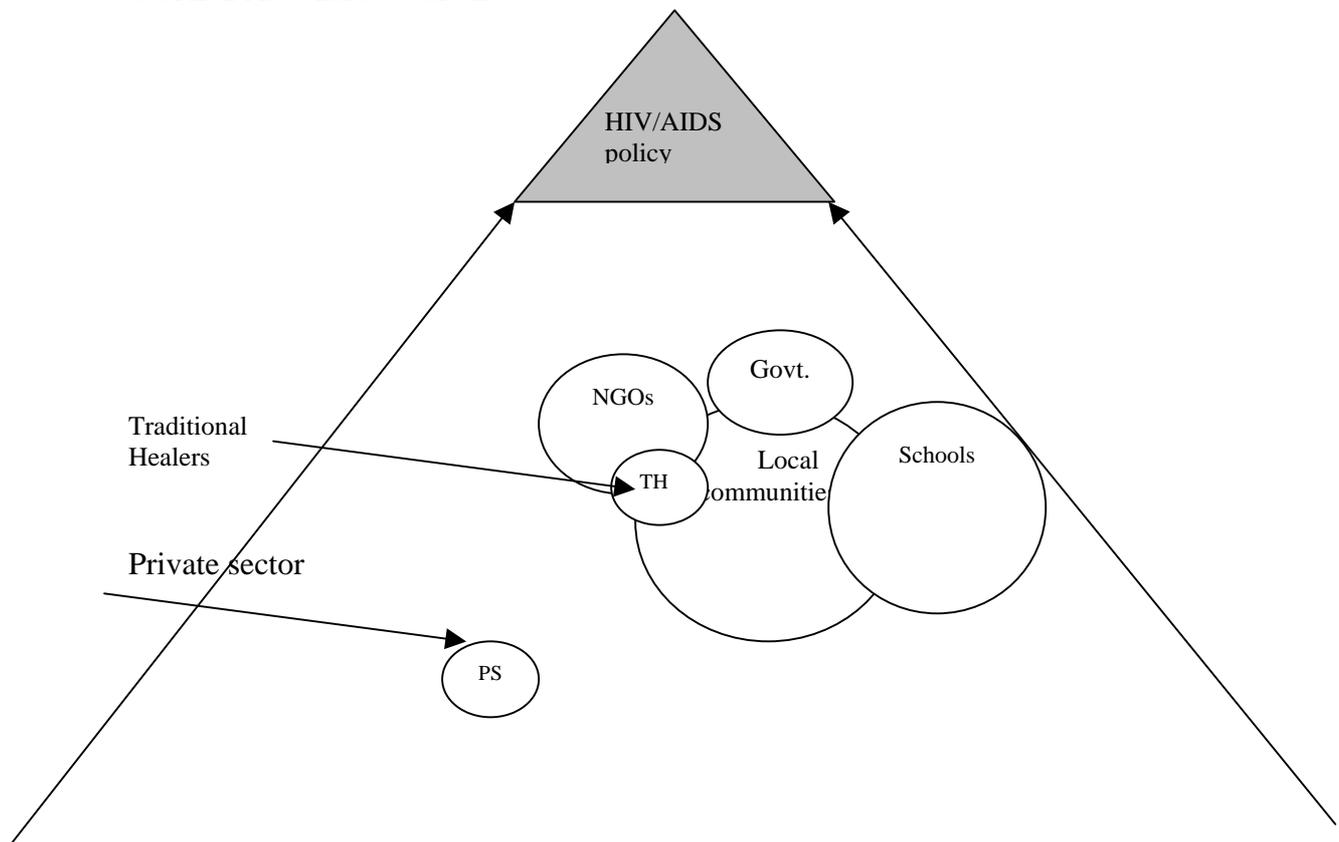
Prior to the 1990s there was no policy for dealing with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. The country was just emerging from civil war, AIDS was unrecognised. The group represented this as a policy vacuum circle with community initiatives “floating” in the middle of it. However with the end of the war and the appointment of the new President things quickly changed. The group noted that, from the start, the process for addressing HIV has been inclusive and multi-faceted. Government policies included an overall policy of openness about the issue; an AIDS desk within every ministry; health policy dealing specifically with AIDS including provision of free treatment for HIV mothers and an education policy advocating AIDS awareness and sex education in all schools.

The group presented this new approach as the following:

Stakeholders: (by descending size)

- Communities
- Schools (although note a significant overlap between schools and communities)
- NGOs (again overlap with communities)
- Government (this was represented as overlapping with communities also because of decentralised approach to govt)
- Traditional Healers (overlap with NGOs and communities)
- Private sector

UGANDA: Where we are now



It was interesting to note that the private sector was not considered important - there was no recognition of drug company policies on patents and pricing. Also not noted was any influence of the international community. George Bush visited Uganda to talk specifically about AIDS with \$billions to spend while this workshop was taking place, but there was no mention of this.

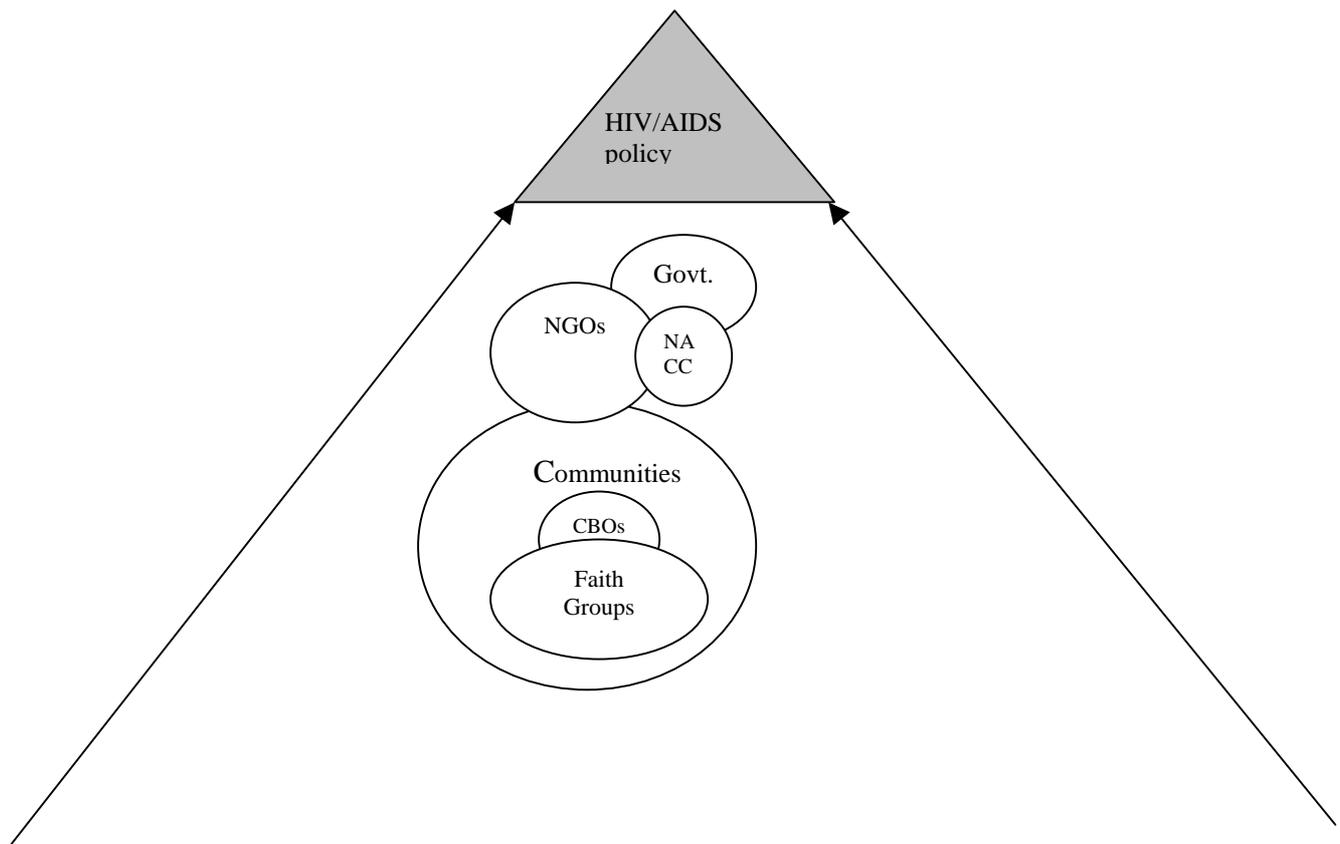
Getting from the empty circle to current position

Major factors were considered to be:

- The civil war and effectively being able to start from a blank sheet with a new president after this
- The decentralised nature of government – communities actively involved from the start
- The wide ranging application of AIDS issues in national policy (helath, education etc)

The group then contrasted the Kenya situation with Uganda. The current situation in Kenya is presented in the diagram below – however, there was no time to map Kenya in the desirable future to discuss the change process.

KENYA: Where we are now



Group 6: HIV/AIDS policy in Nigeria

The diagrams were removed from the room before it was possible to copy them down. However, overall, the current position was described as national government having almost total influence over HIV policy and communities having little if any role. Between the two are labour unions (a large group), religious groups (also large), NGOs (small) and traditional leaders (very small group).

The way the group pictured Nigeria in an ideal future was with local government and communities having equal – and highest – influence over policy. Religious groups, CBOs and traditional leaders are pictured as sub groups of the bigger community. With less influence than local government and community are state government, NGOs and labour unions (with some overlap between communities, labour and NGOs) and then federal government at the bottom of the pile.