Democratic development requires the willing participation of diverse members of civil society in decision-making, in planning and implementation of interventions, and in the overall development process. However, sustaining civil society participation and effective government partnerships is challenging.

The Landcare approach centres on the formation of community groups that work together to identify problems, mobilize resources, and influence resource policy. Taking root in Australia in the mid-1980s, Landcare spread to New Zealand in the early 1990s, in the Philippines in mid-1990s, and in South Africa in late 1990s.

The exodus of the Landcare Program in these countries adheres to the same philosophy: “democratic, community-based, and participatory governance in natural resource management and development”. This shows that Landcare is a global public good that need to be widely shared.

Landcare in Eastern and Southern Africa
ICRAF initiated the development of Landcare in Uganda in 2002 through the “African Grassroots Innovations for Livelihood and Environment (AGILE)” Project, funded by the Italian government.

In South Africa, Landcare is implemented by central government with funding from the government of Australia.

With support from the Australian-Aid Program, this project will build the capacity of country Landcare teams for wider application of the Landcare approach, to enhance democratic environmental governance in South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.
Key Activities
• Knowledge-sharing of Landcare experiences through cross-visits and workshops
• Training of Landcare Teams
• Facilitating Landcare Teams to develop country Landcare programmes
• Studies to analyze the potential of Landcare in eastern Africa

Expected Outputs
• Country Landcare Teams
• Network of Landcare Teams across Eastern Africa and South Africa
• Landcare Country Programs
• A vision for Landcare Africa
• Popular communication materials
• Project study reports

Duration of Project:
April 2005 to March 2006

Contacts:
Dr. Delia C. Catacutan
NRM Research Officer
ICRAF-Philippines
delia_icraf@yahoo.com

Joseph Tanui
Landcare Coordinator
Landcare-AGILE Project
ICRAF-AHI, Kampala
Uganda
j.tanui@cgiar.org

Capacity Building for the Application of Landcare Towards Enhanced Democratic Processes in Natural Resource Management in Southern and Eastern Africa

The project will also support the establishment of the Landcare International Facilitating Unit (LIFU), based at ICRAF Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.