



## The World Bank's Common Property Resource Management Network

The World Bank's *CPRNet* Newsletter

Number 1, November 1998

### Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the *CPRNet* Newsletter! The Newsletter will appear irregularly, dependent upon whether there is anything to report on (both from your side and mine). At the most it will appear monthly. On my part this is an effort to rationalize my dissemination and communication strategy regarding *CPRNet*, and CPRs and collective action in the World Bank more generally. For you this will hopefully present a more attractive format as well as a better overview of what is going on.

Some sections will be (more or less) regular/recurring features, including 'Country chapters,' 'Good practice,' 'Membership,' 'Networking,' 'Partnerships,' 'Projects,' 'Seminar series' and 'Tools.' Other sections will reflect particular issues. As a rule, some of the items presented and resources commented upon will have relevance for non-World Bank staff, others apply to World Bank staff, while still others will be of interest to both World Bank staff and non-World Bank staff.

Read in this issue: The minutes of the general *CPRNet* meeting, held in Vancouver in June 1998; the first *CPRNet* country chapter in Bangladesh; and the partnership between the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) and *CPRNet*.

Again, welcome to this first issue of the *CPRNet* Newsletter. I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions on this first issue, as well as suggestions for news items for future issues. A future issue, possibly the next, will focus on the mission of *CPRNet* and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). A related issue that needs to be addressed is the whole area of property rights in the World Bank's operational and policy work.

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### Structure and membership

New members. Since June 1998 the following persons have joined CPRNet (people who registered in connection with the May international workshop on community-based natural resource management in Washington, approx. 60-70 persons, are not included): Rashiduzzaman Ahmed (IUCN; Bangladesh), Dinesh Aryal (World Bank; USA), Manish Bapna (World Bank; USA), Kabita Bhattarai (CECI; Nepal), Madhusudan Bhattarai (Clemson Univ.; USA), Elizabeth C Brower (World Bank; USA), Minoti Chakravarti-Kaul (Dept of Economics, University of Delhi; India), Muam Augustin Chi (University of Twente; The Netherlands), Kule Chitepo (Africa Resources Trust; South Africa), Mark Eckstein (International Finance Corporation; USA), Kirsten Ewers (Dept. of Natural Resources Management, Ramboll; Denmark), Tracy Hart (World Bank; USA), Saleemul Huq (Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies; Bangladesh), Leon Irish (World Bank; USA), Salah Khwaja (World Bank; USA), Mounq Mounq (Green Hill; Bangladesh), Ainun Nishat (IUCN; Bangladesh), Adhiambo Odaga (Ford Foundation; Nigeria), Heena Patel (Indigenous Environmental Policy Center; USA), Bilal H Rahill (World Bank; USA), and Ransje Teerink (European Commission; Belgium).

Structure: Steering Committee and Advisory Committee. CPRNet has always had a very flat organizational structure. There are no formal office holders (for that matter, there would have been no funds to pay for them either). Nonetheless, it is time to include more people in the management of CPRNet. This was also a recommendation from the *CPRNet* meeting in Vancouver in June of this year (for the minutes from this meeting see below). The reason for this suggestion is not necessarily that there is a lot of work that needs to be done. Rather, it's an effort to involve interested people in contributing to determining *CPRNet*'s future agenda. The

Steering Committee and Advisory Committee should be composed of people with as varied backgrounds as possible, in terms of e.g. current job, training, region covered, and gender. Both World Bank staff as well as international members should be represented. Communication between members would be via email, and it is not likely that either committee would ever meet physically. Time input would be minimal, basically as much or little as each member decide to use, as all work would be driven by the members own initiatives. For the Steering Committee, around 3-5 members would be enough, and for the Advisory Committee 5-10 members might be a suitable number. Already a couple of persons have shown an interest in becoming members of either the Steering Committee or the Advisory Committee. Please contact me with your suggestions, either yourself or a colleague (the most recent Register of Members might be useful in doing this).

Membership Application Form. All new members are asked to fill in a Membership Application Form (old members may be asked to do the same). This form provides needed information for management purposes, it is helpful for preparing the Register of Members, and it aids in determining eligibility for granting membership.

Register of Members. An updated Register of Members is issued every 2-3 months. It is sent by email to all members, and it is posted on the *CPRNet*'s web pages on the World Bank's intranet, as well as on the internal v-drive (v:\cprnet\members).

## Communication

Archiving. Information pertaining to CPRNet, e.g. including Newsletters and Register of Members, are archived on the internal v-drive (path: v:\cprnet\). The internal web site (see below) also contains relevant documentation.

Electronic mail lists. Two electronic mail lists are available for World Bank staff: '*CPRNet* - WB Staff' and '*CPRNet* - External'. Given that a proper mail serve unfortunately is not yet available, non-World Bank staff members will have to create their own personal lists.

Web site. *CPRNet* operates a web page on the World Bank's intranet, at <<http://essd.worldbank.org/essd/sdv/sdvhome.nsf/CPRNETView?OpenView>>.

A practical issue. Email messages addressed to *CPRNet* members using general email addresses cannot include 'c/o' or 'Attention' information. For this reason you are advised to inform your colleagues that any messages relating to *CPRNet* are to be directed to you.

## Knowledge management

Knowledge management is key to understanding how the World Bank is changing. A brief introduction to knowledge management system in the World Bank would give emphasis to "communities of practice". Across the World Bank there are increasing numbers of communities of practice that are recognized and operating. Communities of practice are groups of professionals, bound to one another through exposure to a common class of problems, common pursuit of solutions and, thereby, themselves embodying a store of knowledge. They are increasingly recognized as an essential foundation for undertaking knowledge management. While there has always been a significant amount of personal and informal networking underway among World Bank staff, there have been relatively few communities of practice officially operating and openly sharing their knowledge with a wider clientele. More specifically, knowledge management includes the following activities: generating knowledge, using knowledge, gathering and synthesizing knowledge, sharing knowledge, establishing knowledge partnerships, and building knowledge-based capacity among clients and partners. Knowledge management also includes operational and business practices and training.

*CPRNet* aims to contribute to establishing a community of practice that focuses on property rights issues in a broad sense, throughout the World Bank's investment and policy work, within a framework of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), co-management and decentralization. In doing so, two basic facts underlying *CPRNet*'s existence have to be kept in

mind: First, *CPRNet* does not have a natural 'home' inside the World Bank. Its agenda does not focus on any one sector in particular as much as it focuses on all sectors. Although *CPRNet* does belong naturally in the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (ESSD) Network, it clearly does not fit in any one of the three Families that constitute this Network, that is, Environment, Rural and Social. However, rather than seeing this as a problem it should be seen as an advantage, as it presents a rationale for understanding and analyzing classes of issues and problems that cut across any traditional way of dealing with developmental issues. Second, *CPRNet* is not a traditional World Bank entity, in the sense that its membership is drawn specifically from anyone that is interested in property rights, in particular common property rights, as connected with the World Bank's activities. As a recognized informal group under the ESSD Network's Rural and Social Families, as well as being formally recognized as a World Bank knowledge resource, *CPRNet* should, in collaboration with other interested parties in the World Bank, be in a position to do this. Such a community of practice should reach across the whole ESSD Network.

Partnerships are recognized as an important element of a community of practice. *CPRNet* has established a partnership with the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP), and is also recognized by the World Bank as a Partnership (see in this issue below).

### **Projects: New land legislation in Nicaragua**

Nicaraguan President Arnoldo Aleman proposed, on 13 October 1998, groundbreaking legislation to solve ancient conflicts over land occupied by indigenous peoples. Aleman proposed a law that would give title to communal lands traditionally settled by indigenous populations in the Atlantic region. He called the proposal a starting point for national dialogue on the issue.

His announcement, which won praise from the World Bank and the OAS, triggered the release of \$15 million for Nicaragua's Atlantic Biological Corridor Project, a conservation project funded by the GEF, the World Bank, and the Canadian and Dutch governments, among other institutions. "This is an important step for securing a sustainable future for the people of the Atlantic Coast and, indeed, for all Nicaraguans," Donna Dowsett-Coirolo is quoted as saying in a letter to Aleman.

The hope is to clarify the rights of Nicaragua's indigenous populations to traditional lands and to resolve their claims fairly, administration officials said. Indigenous Indian and Afro-Caribbean inhabitants number some 185,000 along the Caribbean coast, about half the region's population.

Source: World Bank Development News, 14 October 1998

### **Tools: The World Bank's Imagebank**

The World Bank's Imagebank is an interesting new research tool, originally developed for internal use. A subset of the Imagebank, called World Development Sources (WDS), is now available for the general public. WDS Version 2 contains images and text of over 6,000 World Bank reports, the majority of which were produced during the last six years. There are over 500,000 pages on-line, and the collection is growing larger day by day. You can use this web application to help find World Bank reports rapidly, review the content of the reports on-line, and then use the information electronically. Check out the new advanced searching options (Detailed Search, Options) or simply use Find at the top of this page to search through every World Bank report abstract and profile. See Detailed Search in help for more info. The World Bank Document plug-in is used with Netscape to view the image portion of a report. Download the new "Prizm" version of the plug-in for hot new features, like image annotation and improved performance.

Note that you can register on-line, and you will be emailed important news, updates, and offers relating to WDS.

Source: World Bank Imagebank  
URL: <http://www-wds.worldbank.org>

## Country chapters: Bangladesh

Recently, *CPRNet* members in Bangladesh agreed to organize their own chapter. Below are the minutes from the first two meetings of this chapter, in July and August 1998. If you would like to get in touch with the team, please contact me (as of this writing, they have not appointed a contact person). Also, if you would be interested in discussing the possibility of organizing a Chapter in your own country/region please contact me.

Minutes of a meeting of the Bangladesh Chapter of *CPRNet*  
Dhaka, 6 July 1998

A meeting of the Bangladesh Chapter of the Common Property Resource Management Network (*CPRNet*) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6 July 1998, in the office of IUCN-Bangladesh. It was attended by Mr. Imtiazuddin Ahmad, Mr. Philip Gain, Mr. Anisuzzaman Khan, Mr. Rasheduzzaman, Ms. Anwara Begum Shelly and Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique. The participants requested that Dr. Toufique chair the meeting and that Mr. Anisuzzaman prepare the minutes. The meeting was adjourned after two hours of fruitful discussion and a forward march mood.

The agenda of the meeting, which had earlier been distributed among the members of the Chapter by Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique, was: (1) The rationale for *CPRNet*; (2) The content of the Bangladesh Chapter of *CPRNet*; (3) The form of the Bangladesh Chapter of *CPRNet*; and, (4) Misc.

Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique, the Chair, gave an overview of *CPRNet*, including background, goals and objectives. Mr. Imtiazuddin Ahmad further elaborated on *CPRNet*. He said it was started within World Bank in 1995 to facilitate sharing of experience and enhancing the awareness about common property resources (CPRs) and their importance in the World Bank. In the process the network was extended, and today it links World Bank staff and outside practitioners and experts interested in issues related to the management of CPRs. The Chapter members present at the meeting introduced themselves and presented comments on their interest in CPRs. This self-introduction by the members reflected a large diversity of organizations, programs and research. Every one expressed their individual needs and desires in connection with this network. These include:

*Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD)*, founded in 1993, is a non-profit organization dealing with environment, development, multilateral development banks and human rights issues. Important activities are investigative reporting and publication of the findings, training and documentation. Philip from SEHD explained his experiences with CPR depletion in forests and how the policies at global and regional levels impact negatively on national and grass-roots levels. He cited a few cases and expressed his experiences with moist deciduous forest destruction and conversion. Philip wrote a book on the forest destruction in Bangladesh with a particular focus on the Modhupur Forest. He further noted that the ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh are the first victims of such CPR depletion. The similar development intervention and commercial forestry activities is one of the major threats in Chittagong Hill Tracts, he added. Philip mentioned the forestry master plan and forestry sector projects in Bangladesh that, although they talk about CPRs, in practice the subject and acts are ignored. He is critical as to whether this network will invite, or accommodate, these kinds of issues/subjects for debate and discussion without any reservation.

*Nature Conservation Movement (NACOM)* was founded in 1986 and is solely devoted to all aspects of biodiversity and nature conservation. NACOM is a voluntary organization, and has conducted surveys and done research on various aspects of biodiversity during the last decade. Mentionworthy among these are: *Haor* basin wetlands, evergreen forests and threatened wildlife. The primary data generated by NACOM on Bangladesh biodiversity are utilized by a wide group of clients. NACOM helps build other environmental NGOs by providing technical advice, and keeps the nature conservation movement in Bangladesh on the right track. Mr. Anis, who represented NACOM at the meeting, raised some questions that he hopes this network will be able to help in answering. The questions are: The definition of CPRs in Bangladesh, their present state and their conservation.

*IUCN-Bangladesh*, the World Conservation Union, was invited to Bangladesh to formulate the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in the mid-eighties and has been working on that since. In addition IUCN-Bangladesh has organized several national and regional conferences on biodiversity and environment. They are providing secretarial services for several forums of issue- and subject-specific groups and networks pertaining to biodiversity, green accounting and EIA, etc. IUCN-Bangladesh has 10 national organizational members from both the Govt. and NGOs. They are also helping to network among the IUCN global Commission members from Bangladesh. There are 41 members from Bangladesh representing 6 Commissions. IUCN-Bangladesh has identified 5 priority areas, where they intended to work, facilitate and give support. The ongoing projects are: Wetlands policy document, Familiarization of environmental economics/accounting, Bangladesh Red Book on wildlife (including fish species), Population and environment. Mr. Rashed, who represented IUCN-Bangladesh at the meeting, expressed his willingness to help build the network as he felt it is necessary to share experiences, help government in materializing NEMAP, NCS, etc.

#### *Highlights of the discussion*

The participants shed light on Bangladesh's CPR related issues, including CPR management systems in Bangladesh with particular focus on forests, the coastal zone, wetlands and fisheries resources. Urban-rural link in CPRs control and their far reaching negative impact on both resources and their vast majority of local users. The facts of people living far away from the resources, their hidden roles, and projects being initiated from urban areas are threatening the traditional community forests and *haor* (wetlands) management heritage and practices. Resources in the newly accreted coastal islands and tidal mudflats far beyond the mainland private land are not clearly defined in terms of its use and legal management. Sometimes investment of borrowed money (loan) by the govt. are being piped to short-term economic gain, with benefits going to a small section of the population, and with the results of destroying the natural resource-base such as mangroves, coastal wetlands and estuaries.

The members were concerned that there has been a significant loss and degradation of CPRs with a consequent reduction in diversity, and that there are serious, on-going and impending threats to many remaining CPRs. The participants at the meeting recognized the CPR issues, problems and prospects and legal aspects, conflicts in Bangladesh need special attention while implementing development projects, and that this type of network could help build a healthy debate, advocacy and pro-people program-building campaigns.

- The learning process on CPRs might be enhanced if the Bangladesh Chapter of *CPRNet* succeeds.
- The network's success will depend upon the involvement of more active, relevant and interested members.
- The status of the Bangladesh Chapter of *CPRNet* and its degree of freedom needs to be formulated.

The meeting thanked Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique for his initiative.

The meeting recommended the following:

- (1) The group will convene further meetings in coming days to discuss the *CPRNet* background, need, goal and objectives, invite more interested people, and will also design and define an outline mode of operandi and programs that are compatible with the *CPRNet* concept.
- (2) The second meeting will be held on 10th of August at 3 p.m. at the IUCN offices. Anis and Rashed were given the responsibility for coordination and mobilization.
- (3) At the second meeting the group that represented Bangladesh at the recently held IASCP conference in Vancouver, Canada will share their experiences, and Dr. Paul Thompson will be asked to facilitate the discussion. This will help the members to learn more about the CPRs.

Dr. Kazi, the meeting's Chair, on behalf of the members thanked IUCN for hosting the meeting and for its hospitality.

Minutes of the second meeting of the Bangladesh Chapter of the *CPRNet*  
The IUCN Office, Dhaka, 10 August 1998

The following persons attended the meeting: Imtiaz Ahmad (World Bank), Ainun Nishat (IUCN), Nargis Joardar (IUCN), Anisuzzaman Khan (NACOM), Naser Khan (East-West University), Rashiduzzaman (IUCN), Anwara Begum Shelly (CARITAS), Paul Thompson (ICLARM) and Kazi Ali Toufique (BIDS).

The meeting was chaired by A Khan. Kazi A Toufique was rapporteur. The meeting was divided into two parts. The first part involved a report of the experience of those who attended the conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) in Vancouver in June (email <iascp@indiana.edu>, URL <<http://www.sfu.ca/~iascp98>>). The main presentation was delivered by P. Thompson. The second part involved a discussion on the philosophy, rationality, objective, modes of operation and so on of the Bangladesh chapter of the *CPRNet*.

*Part 1: The IASCP 1998 experience (Thompson, Ahmad and Shelly)*

Thompson informed that there were seven parallel sessions (theory, aboriginal rights, governance, fisheries, forests, multiple commons, global commons) on top of an introductory and a plenary sessions in the IASCP 1998 conference. The conference was attended by several hundred people and as many as 360 papers were presented. Thompson mentioned the following points from the plenaries:

- CPR fits with ecosystem based management – need to change property rights to fit changing environmental views and shift towards diverse co-management and devolution  
CPR did/do not fit with commodification – state has problems with CPR as not defined in its terms (“who owns this”);
- Globalization affecting traditional commons, and non traditional commons such as the internet; also new technology used in establishing and revitalizing CPR and improving local people’s management tools;
- Forestry – interdisciplinary studies with increasing ecological measures, need better baseline and longitudinal methods;
- Aboriginal; customary property rights exist, multi-dimensioned - CPR embedded in life, rights involve both dominion and sovereignty;
- Theory – still lack clarity in definitions, issue of scale, new areas of theory being involved: e.g. bureaucratic theory; and,
- Fisheries – co-management (successful in many places of the Caribbean and also in Cambodia) main topic, issues of non-users and conservation, similar issues in many countries.

Overall, how does one integrate local CPRs into a larger system? What is success in a CPR (performance standards and indicators)? From the organizational point of view IASCP will now look further for regional support.

Ahmad mentioned two points. The concepts that were discussed in the workshop are being implemented in Bangladesh since quite some time. Also, local level institutions in Bangladesh have to be strengthened to facilitate management of CPRs.

Shelly thinks that co-management has been successful in many cases in Bangladesh and government-NGO cooperation can improve the performance of co-management.

The meeting then went for an open discussion that centered mainly on fisheries issues, but problems related to forests, bureaucracy and legal structures were also discussed. Tribal informal/traditional rights issue was raised by Anisuzzaman Khan. These rights currently have no formal status. Anisuzzaman Khan also raised the issue of problems of establishing property rights of the fishers over fishing grounds in the second aquaculture project. Issues relating to coordination of fisheries projects were raised and Ahmad expressed the view that coordination has improved in recent years although Thompson disagreed with this claim. Toufique raised the issue of people's perception on CPR (there is no matching Bangla translation for this term) and how it relates to Government and NGO perceptions. Do people understand what the government and donors are going to do to address their livelihoods as long it is based on the issue of CPR or

co-management and the like? Are success stories of co-management temporary (it will disappear as NGOs quit) or is co-management of CPRs from the outside sustainable?

*Part 2: Philosophy, rationality, objective, and modes of operation  
of the Bangladesh Chapter of CPRNet*

The following views were expressed:

- (1) Involve as many people as possible in the *CPRNet* but this should not be done at the expense of turning it from a network to an association;
- (2) The network should not be centralized to the extreme;
- (3) Invite people from specialized fields to discuss issues of current interest; and
- (4) The network can benefit from associating with other institutions such as the IASCP but the existence of the Bangladesh chapter as an independent identity has to be maintained.

Thompson and Shelly accepted the responsibility for organizing the third meeting of the Bangladesh Chapter of the *CPRNet*. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 12 October 1998. Either Raja Debashish Roy (to talk about CPRs in the Hill Tracts of Bangladesh) or Philip Gain (to talk about CPRs in the Madhupur forests) will be approached to present a paper. The IUCN has kindly agreed to provide the venue.

### **CPRNet general meeting, Vancouver, June 1998**

In connection with the annual meeting of the International Association for the Study for Common Property (IASCP), in Vancouver, participating members of *CPRNet* met on June 10, 1998.

The following participated: Imtiazuddin Ahmad (World Bank; Bangladesh), Regina Birner (Institute of Rural Development, University of Goettingen; Germany), Gernot Brodnig (Harvard University; USA), Claudia d'Andrea (Asia Forest Network IUCN & University of California Berkeley; USA), Kirsten Ewers Andersen (Dept. of Natural Resource Mgt., Ramboll; Denmark), Narpat S Jodha (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development; Nepal), Shashi Kolavalli (India), Theodore Macdonald (PONSACS/WCFIA, Harvard University, USA), Ruth Meinzen-Dick (International Food Policy Research Institute; USA), Indu K Murthy (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian institute of Science; India), Nirmal Paul (APHEDA; Australia), Hamish Rennie (Dept. of Geography, University of Waikato; New Zealand), Peter Riggs (Rockefeller Brothers Fund; USA), Prof. S B Roy (Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research & Development; India), Lars T Soeftestad (World Bank, USA), Dr. P Sudha (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science; India), Paul Thompson (International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management; Bangladesh), and Ganesh Yadav (Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research & Development; India).

Lars T Soeftestad (World Bank) chaired the meeting, and the minutes were taken by Peter Riggs (Rockefeller Brothers Fund).

Lars T Soeftestad called the meeting to order at 17:50 p.m. by welcoming the participants. He noted that *CPRNet* has "almost as many locations as members," and that therefore this gathering in Vancouver was an excellent opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting of some of those already involved in *CPRNet*.

After asking for comments and additions to the agenda, Soeftestad then discussed the current nature and activities of *CPRNet*.

He noted that property rights within the World Bank has always meant "private property," and that there is an enormous lack of knowledge of the principles and potentials of common property resource management systems. Soeftestad has tried to raise awareness of CPR systems in the World Bank by getting non-World Bank staff to make presentations at lunch seminars, which are a regular feature of life at the World Bank. He said the network had "no short-term goals," that its general mission was to try and move the World Bank to a more considered understanding of the variety of resource tenure systems and successful community-based management initiatives already existing, and to connect World Bank staff with outside practitioners and experts in these fields. Thus *CPRNet* has been exploring possible connections

with the International Association for Studies of Common Property (IASCP), an institutional home for many such practitioners and scholars.

Soeftestad also commented on the International Workshop on Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), held in May 1998 at the World Bank. The intention was to introduce a property-rights perspective into some of the work on CBNRM that the World Bank is now undertaking. The World Bank is particularly oriented toward “demand from the field,” and in the case of the workshop, there was clearly a high demand for this activity, with over 400 case study papers submitted for consideration.

Moving forward, Soeftestad hopes to expand the web presence of *CPRNet*, to continue to hold seminars, and to move *CPRNet* out into the field; while most resources are in Washington DC, there is a great deal that members can do in their own countries. Soeftestad stressed that, as a network, members need to dedicate themselves to getting things going, and to interact with on-going World Bank programs, for example in land titling programs where options other than individual title might be pursued.

Next was a discussion of membership logistics. Soeftestad has had to limit membership to professionals – it is not possible to run *CPRNet* for students as well – particularly since the number of participants has increased dramatically in the last few months. Between seventy and eighty people joined *CPRNet* at the May workshop. *CPRNet* is really just a “free time activity” for Soeftestad, and as it is, he is already spending a third of his time just answering emails.

There was a question regarding how the World Bank might use CPR or CBNRM case studies. Due to the time commitments of people in the World Bank, it cannot be expected that operations staff in the process of loan preparation would prepare such studies. Soeftestad suggested that *CPRNet* members should use their personal contacts to draw attention to existing CPR systems, to “be proactive and sell the issue,” and to develop “name recognition” for *CPRNet* in this and other institutions.

He also mentioned that the World Bank has trouble working non-sectorally given its organizational structure, and thus needs particular assistance in dealing with the kind of cross-cutting issues CPR systems often represent. (The question has arisen where *CPRNet* would best be ‘housed’ inside the World Bank – within the social sector? – within the environment division?) Better feedback from network members regarding the work they are doing in the field would be a first step.

Participants in turn said they wanted to see evidence that work they are doing would be picked up by the World Bank in thinking about its assistance programs and noted the “disjuncture” between information needs in loan preparations and the kinds of information that case studies elicit. In short, several participants referred to the “distance between theory and practice” as a disincentive to investing in the kind of personal networking within the World Bank that had been suggested. One suggestion was that *CPRNet* could help to look at loan “pipelines” at the earliest possible stage so that there is greater chance of impacting the World Bank’s plans. Support for more attention to applied research was also voiced.

Meinzen-Dick made reference to one very positive use of the *CPRNet* list serve, namely that when a World Bank staff member had a specific question, for example pertaining to forests and parks, the problem was admitted and then dealt with.

Soeftestad noted that there is strong support within the World Bank for web-based activities, given the current attention to “knowledge management.” Several participants commented on the difference between list-serve communications – where email arrives in your inbox and you read through it – versus web-based information, which requires searching.

*CPRNet*’s relationship with IASCP was next on the agenda. *CPRNet* has slightly different goals from IASCP, and while not a proprietary activity of the World Bank, it is connected with the World Bank and therefore has a stronger applied focus than IASCP. *CPRNet* has comparative advantage at the country level, insofar as the World Bank often provides technical assistance and advice with regulatory reform and management; while IASCP perhaps has comparative advantage at the conceptual level, since this is the forum through which new thinking about common property systems is generally floated.



Since *CPRNet* has no committed resources, it might be most appropriate for people working in one country – Bangladesh was given as an example – to link up and see where synergies can be found.

There was some discussion about the need for a Steering Committee. Soeftestad noted that a committee comprised of “insiders and outsiders” helps provide legitimacy to the activity. Such a body should have a flat structure, with a formal list serve.

There was a discussion about helping the World Bank with training in this area, based on the assumption that educating World Bank staff would generate support for the activities that in turn may lead to greater support for the network itself. A key to so doing is to find ways to link staff’s professional development with the CPR/CBNRM agenda. One participant noted that understanding the present incentive structure at the World Bank provides insights into the way the CBNRM agenda has not been taken up until recently.

In conclusion, there has been a paradigm shift within the World Bank, and language changes, but there is still the need to apply pressure. The World Bank is responsive, and things do filter in. This filter, participants suggested, also operates to screen out some complaints and material that are difficult to deal with; a clearer picture of “what’s useful” to the World Bank is needed. Participants suggested that Soeftestad should work to identify which issues are critical within the World Bank, and to encourage task managers to ask questions using the network.

### **Partnership between IASCP and CPRNet**

Lars T Soeftestad was invited to attend a meeting of the IASCP Board in Vancouver in June. Following a period of increasing informal contact between IASCP and *CPRNet* (*CPRNet* in some cases mediating between IASCP and the World Bank), the meeting discussed rationale and ways and means of formalizing this emerging collaboration. The following excerpt from an email to Lars T Soeftestad from Bonnie McCay, the President of IASCP, dated 9 August 1998, presents the outcome of the discussion in IASCP’s Board:

My apologies for not keeping you posted about the outcome of the IASCP Board’s deliberations until now. We appreciate your having taken the time to talk with us; we had a very productive discussion afterwards, the outcome being that Erling Berge is to be the liaison with your group and the *CPRNet* at the World Bank. Ideas for future collaboration and other matters of mutual interest that come out of this relationship will be shared with the rest of us, through email and, where appropriate, through the ‘Commons’ listserv, the IASCP web site, and the CPR Digest.

Again, many thanks for having contributed to our board meeting – as well as to the Common Property Conference itself!

With this collaboration established, the important question for us all is how to use it? I would like to invite you all to contribute views on what this collaboration could be used for. In determining this, it would be important to keep in mind that we should emphasize activities that would benefit all parties involved, that is, IASCP, *CPRNet* and the World Bank. One possibility, actually discussed at the June Board meeting, is to organize training on CPRs for World Bank staff. IASCP members would deliver such training, and it would presumably take place at the World Bank’s headquarters in Washington. A related training activity might be on co-management and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), and such training could be made available also for IASCP members, *CPRNet* members in the World Bank’s borrower countries, World Bank project staff and others. In this, let’s not forget that training can also be given as distance learning, using computers, and it can be done on an individual basis, using on-line training courses.

### **The World Bank and partnerships**

The World Bank is placing increasing emphasis of the need to reach out beyond and below the traditional counterparts the countries in which it works. A key term here is “Partnerships”, and this is explained in the following way on the new “Partnership” web site on the World Bank’s external web site:

Partnership is a vital tool in advancing the World Bank's mission of alleviating poverty and fostering sustainable development. Assisting client countries as they build better lives for their people requires a complex set of strategies and actions that call upon a broad range of expertise and resources. For this reason, the World Bank reaches out to a variety of partners, and enters into a broad range of collaborative relationships aimed to increase our effectiveness and impact at the country level. Some of these relationships take the shape of formal, institutionalized partnerships with commonly shared objectives, a specific division of labor, and common mechanisms for assessment. Others are less formal but no less active collaborations with institutions and groups sharing similar goals. These range from institution-to-institution cooperative agreements to thematically or geographically focused collaborations and joint activities.

*CPRNet* is recognized as one such partnership, and it is featured on the "Partnership" web site, under the thematic area "Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development. Please check it out!

URL: [www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/partnerships.htm](http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/partnerships.htm)