



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

The World Bank's *CPRNet* Newsletter

Number 7, May 1999

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### Membership and organizational issues

**New members.** Roberto Chavez (World Bank; Washington DC, USA), Aico S Nogueira (University of Sao Paulo; Sao Paulo, Brazil [currently at London School of Economics, London, UK]), and Pippa Trench (SOS Sahel UK; London, UK).

[Ed. comment: Several members have, over the last months, informed me that they circulate copies of Newsletters to colleagues. There is thus clearly a large 'gray' market for the Newsletter. While I am pleased that the readership is much larger than the actual number of members, I would nonetheless encourage all readers to become members of *CPRNet*. This would be useful, for example, because it would increase the pool of available expertise and knowledge, as evidenced in the Register of Members.]

**Advisory Committee.** The Bangladesh National Chapter, meeting on 13 May, appointed Kazi A Toufique to represent the Chapter on the Advisory Committee.

**Property rights and CBNRM project database.** This database of World Bank projects is being used in connection with a newly initiated World Bank-wide biodiversity portfolio review. The review, which is task-managed by the World Bank's Global Environment Unit, covers all relevant projects in the period 1998-1999. There will actually be a collaboration, as projects identified through the review, particularly in the areas like terroirs, village committees, CPR recognition, and Park delimitations and zoning, will be reviewed for possible inclusion in this project database.

[Ed. comment: This project database was established by, and is being maintained by, *CPRNet*. See story in Newsletter no 5, March 1999.]

Contact: Gonzalo Castro – GCastro@worldbank.org

**World Bank: Social Development Information Fair.** This Information Fair runs from 26 May until 3 June, at the World Bank Headquarters (see Newsletter no 6, April 1999). This note is to inform members about a promotional folder that was prepared for the Fair. The folder contains an introductory note, recent Newsletters, the *CPRNet* Guide, the Register of Members, the members of the Advisory Committee, and the Membership Application Form. Please contact the Coordinator if you would like to receive one or more folders for your own use, for example, in connection with informing colleagues and others about *CPRNet*.

[Ed. comment: The outcome of this Fair, as well as other related events, will be reported on in the next Newsletter.]

***CPRNet* and IASCP, I.** The July 1999 issue of 'CPR Digest', the newsletter published by the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) will include a Forum (i.e. a section with invited contributions around a specific topic). For this Forum people are invited to contribute pieces in response to the following question: "How would you characterize the impacts of multilateral agencies on common pool resources in your area and what response is

called for by CPR management scholars and practitioners?”). This is a welcome indication that IASCP is taking the challenge of the multilateral development banks, international finance, private sector and development aid conglomerate seriously. This will be a good opportunity to raise the issue, within IASCP, of the political economy of working with CPRs in an international developmental context.

I have been invited to contribute a comment and, upon request, I suggested the names of some key *CPRNet* members, some of who have subsequently been invited to contribute comments. As the Coordinator of *CPRNet*, I am pleased that the IASCP Exec. Council has decided on this course of action, and I look forward to contributing to the Forum and to participate in the ensuing discussion (for example, the next IASCP conference will likely feature sessions on this topic).

[Ed. comment: The first announcement for the next IASCP conference, to take place in May-June 2000, can be found elsewhere in this section.]

*CPRNet* and IASCP, II. As some of you will be aware of, *CPRNet* some time back approached IASCP, inviting them to appoint a person to represent IASCP on the *CPRNet* Advisory Committee (the IASCP Exec. Council, meeting in June 1998, appointed a person to function as a liaison with *CPRNet*). For many IASCP members such an arrangement with *CPRNet*, because of its association with the World Bank, would be problematic. This issue is clearly one of the factors that have led to the decision to include a Forum on multilateral development banks and CPRs in the July 1999 “CPR Digest” (see above).

[Ed. comment: The IASCP Exec. Council will be meeting in June 1999 and the issue of appointing a person the represent IASCP on the *CPRNet* Advisory Committee is on the agenda. The June *CPRNet* Newsletter will report on the outcome.]

## National Chapters

Bangladesh: Minutes of Chapter meeting on 13 May 1999. The following persons attended the meeting: Anisuzzaman Khan, Paul Thompson, Md. Iqbal Faruk, Raquibul Amin, Neville Ash, M Monirul Hasan Khan, Shumiya Farzana, Kazi A Toufique, and Asaduzzaman.

Paul Thompson chaired the meeting and Kazi A Toufique was the rapporteur. The meeting was divided in two parts. The first part involved a presentation on “Community Based Wetlands Management” (see ‘Ed. comment’ below regarding this part). The second part involved a discussion on a wide range of issues, including: (1) Selection of a contact person for the *CPRNet* Bangladesh, (2) Decisions on membership issues (particularly for those living abroad), and (3) The future course of direction of *CPRNet* Bangladesh (incl. how a wetland/biodiversity network will be linked to *CPRNet*).

The following decisions were taken, according to the agenda:

- Kazi A Toufique was selected as the contact person for *CPRNet* Bangladesh.
- It was decided that people who work on Bangladesh, but do not live in the country could become members of the network. Their names will be included in the mailing list. Bob Pokrant, the Curtin University of Technology, Australia, was accepted as a member of the network.
- The meeting also decided to include Dr. Mustafa K Mujeri and Mr. Quazi Faruque Ahmed as members of the network.
- The network noticed that its sustainability depends to a large extent on active participation of its members in the meetings. It was decided that the members should try to meet at least twice a year. While the existence of other networks was observed the meeting came to the conclusion that the network should continue on its own merit. However, dissemination of information relating to the activities of the network was thought to be crucial. It was decided that attempts should be made to propagate the activities of the network through contact with other networks. If required, people not available through the internet will be contacted by postal mail. The network should also involve more people working in diverse areas. The unintentional concentration of people involved with fisheries was noticed. All of the above imply that communication between the members may have to be done via email rather than through regular meetings.

- It was decided that the members will make a field trip to Shivaloy, Manikganj to see for themselves some community-based wetland management programmes in September 1999. The meeting thanked Anisuzzaman Khan for taking the responsibility of arranging this trip. It was also decided that Kazi A Toufique would give a talk on the concept of common property resources and its use in Bangladesh at the end of this year.

[Ed. comment: Part 1 of the minutes from this meeting, a summary of a presentation on "Community-based wetlands management", is available in section 'Projects' below.]

Contact: Kazi A Toufique – KToufique@bdonline.com

[Ed. comment: Introduction to the following story (English and French versions): Gildas Royet, an economist working at the World Bank's Resident Mission in Nouakchott, Mauritania, is interested in organizing a *CPRNet* Chapter in Mauritania. He contributed the following piece (in French, followed by an English translation) on 31 May 1999. Gildas Royet suggests beginning with the fisheries / aquatic resources sector, as this sector seems to have reached a level of consensus between the actors involved. He argues that once this sector is consolidated and networked this will attract the attention of, for example, bilateral agencies, and increase the likelihood of funding to the sector. Also, once this group is organized, people working on other natural resources and ecosystems will join, and a larger *CPRNet* National Chapter consisting of people working on, inter alia, forestry, range lands, and agriculture, will be established.]

Prémices d'un futur réseau en Mauritanie. Confiné entre le Maghreb et l'Afrique de l'Ouest, la Mauritanie est un très vaste pays sahélien. La gestion des ressources de ce vaste territoire repose entre autre sur la réalisation et l'application des textes de lois ( la propriété foncière, le code pastoral, le repos biologique des espèces marines...) mais également sur des actions concrètes à travers des associations et des projets de développement agricoles (études, de recensements...). La création de réseaux d'information est donc essentiel pour mener à bien un développement concerté du pays. A ce titre, il serait intéressant de se concentrer sur la gestion des ressources aquatiques et ichthyologiques. Le secteur de la pêche et de l'économie maritime est en effet géré par des acteurs très motivés tant publics que privés, nationaux et internationaux. Des contacts seront pris avec tous les acteurs du secteur afin de mettre en place au plus vite un premier sous-réseau sectoriel au sein du futur *CPRNet* de la Mauritanie. La liste des membres restà établir. En plus des acteurs institutionnels (directions ministérielles, CNROP, délégation à la Surveillance et des différentes coopérations bilatérales), on peut également citer un groupe de recherche; le GREZOH (Université de Nouakchott et Parc de Diawling) qui est impliqué dans la récolte d'informations sur les ressources ichthyologiques et les activités de pêche du fleuve Sénégal du côté Mauritanien. Un chapitre *CPRNet* serait une bonne occasion d'établir un contact entre les différentes institutions de la Mauritanie, du Sénégal et du Mali qui travaillent sur les ressources ichthyologiques du fleuve Sénégal afin de favoriser les échanges scientifiques. L'échange d'information sur l'environnement du fleuve Sénégal permettra à ces institutions d'avoir une vision commune et de pouvoir mieux conseiller les institutions gouvernementales sur la gestion du réservoir de Manantali. Le plus dur reste à faire et nous comptons sur vos conseils.

Pour toutes informations complémentaires, contacter: Gildas Royet – GRoyet@worldbank.org

Mauritania: A forthcoming *CPRNet* National Chapter. Lying between the Magreb and West Africa is a huge sub-Saharan country, namely Mauritania. The management of these resources is based on the formulation and respect of the law (pastoral code, property rights, fishing quotas, etc.), and also on specific actions and initiatives by the civil society and agricultural development projects (studies, census, etc.). Networking is therefore essential to stimulate and facilitate a well-coordinated development process. In this respect it would be interesting to focus on the management of aquatic and ichthyological resources. The fishing sector and the maritime economy are managed by actors that are well motivated, representing either from the public or private sectors, national or international. Contacts will be made with all actors of the sector to put in place, as soon as possible, a first sub-sector network within the forthcoming *CPRNet* Mauritania National Chapter. The list of members has yet to be established. In addition to the institutional actors, such as directors of ministries, CNROP, délégation à la Surveillance, and the various bilateral agencies, the research group GREZOH (Nouakchott University and Diawling Park) should be considered as possible members. The latter group is involved in data collection on the ichthyological resources and fishing activities in the Senegal River on the

Mauritanian side. A *CPRNet* Chapter would be a good opportunity to establish contact between the various institutions from Mauritania, Senegal and Mali that are working on ichthyological resources of the Senegal River, and to promote exchange of scientific information. This information exchange about the Senegal River environment will provide these institutions with a common vision, and will allow them to advise the relevant government institutions properly when it comes to management of the Manantali Reservoir. The work ahead, which will be hard, remains unfinished, and for this we rely on your advice.

Contact: Gildas Royet – [GRoyet@worldbank.org](mailto:GRoyet@worldbank.org)

## Networking

[Ed. comment: *CPRNet* member Armelle Faure has contributed the following piece on a project she is working on that is based upon the premise that a lot of the natural resources in this river basin can be understood as commons. The original French text is followed by an English translation.]

France: La gestion des bassins dans la vallée Dordogne. La globalisation des marchés et l'ouverture prochaine à la concurrence de la compétitivité du marché français de l'électricité conduisent à des changements de pratiques progressifs sur le plan environnemental en France. Dans la vallée de la Dordogne, dans le sud-ouest de la France, cinq barrages hydroélectriques fournissent de l'électricité pour tous le pays, et une partie est vendue à l'étranger. Des nuisances se ressentent au niveau local. Le fonctionnement des turbines provoque des changements instantanés du débit (jusqu'à 5 mètres au pied du barrage de l'Aigle), ces variations diurnes ne sont pas prévisibles, et la population locale n'a aucun moyen d'obtenir des informations fiables et de s'y préparer.

Une étude sociologique est actuellement en cours dans la vallée de la Dordogne. Quels sont les effets négatifs? Quels groupes et quelles activités sont affectés? Existe-t-il des groupes ou individus plus vulnérables que d'autres? Quelles sont les biodiversités aquatiques locales les plus affectées (beaucoup d'éléments ont déjà été rassemblés sur les poissons et les espèces végétales)? Comment est-il possible de diminuer l'impact de ces variations diurnes? Le défi est de transformer la vision de la Vallée, et de la considérer dans son ensemble, d'organiser les populations locales des montagnes en amont jusqu'à l'océan. La Dordogne est la plus longue rivière de France; il y a un siècle, l'économie de la rivière était intégrée: les populations des montagnes d'Auvergne fournissaient le bois nécessaire à la fabrication des tonneaux pour la ville de Bordeaux où le vin est préparé. La cargaison était acheminée en aval par des bateaux à fond plat sur les eaux tumultueuses de la rivière et ils remontaient ensuite en amont avec du sel et des marchandises.

L'étude comporte toutes les méthodes et concepts de développement durable qui ont été expérimentées dans les pays en voie de développement depuis Rio: la méthode participative, l'amélioration de l'information et du système de décision par la concertation entre Electricité de France et la population locale, et le règlement des conflits. L'étude sociale d'une rivière est quelque chose de nouveau en France et a beaucoup à apprendre des autres études déjà réalisées.

Contact: Armelle Faure – [Armelle.Faure@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Armelle.Faure@wanadoo.fr)

France: River basin management in the Dordogne valley. The globalization of markets and a near opening to competitiveness of the French market for electricity is going to lead to slow changes in environmental practices. In the Dordogne Valley, in the southwest of France, five hydroelectric dams are providing electricity for the whole nation, and a part of it is sold abroad. But the adverse effects are local. The activity of the generators are causing instant changes in the flood (up to 5 meters at the foot of the plant in the Dam of L'Aigle), these diurnal variations are not predictable, and the local population have no way of getting reliable information to prepare for it.

A sociological study is currently taking place in the Dordogne Valley. What are the social adverse effects? Which groups and what kind of activities are affected? Are there vulnerable groups or individuals that are affected? What kind of local aquatic biodiversity is affected (a lot is already collected about fish and vegetal species)? How is it possible to mitigate the impact of those diurnal variations? The challenge is to transform the perception of the valley, and to consider it as a global commons, to foster the organization of local population, from the mountains upstream down to the ocean. The Dordogne river is the longest river in France; one

century ago, the economy of the river was integrated: people in the mountains of l'Auvergne provided wood for the barrels needed downstream in Bordeaux where the wine is prepared, the cargo was brought by special flat boats conducted in the risky flows of a tempestuous river, and they came back upstream with salt and manufactured goods.

The study includes all the methods and concepts of sustainable development that have been experimented in the developing countries since Rio: the participatory approach, improvement of information and in the decision-making system through a concertation between Electricité de France (the trouble-maker) and the local population, and conflict negotiation. This kind of social study of a river as a global commons is new in France and has a lot to learn from what has already been implemented in other places.

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Women, CPR management and sustainable natural resource management. David Gambill, Environment Advisor to USAID's WID office, asks whether there are examples of where including women's participation in common property management organizations has led to improved outcomes for the resource base or the environment (not just for women's welfare or household livelihoods, important though those are). One example he cited is a forest reserve that, when women were included in decision-making, set up reserves for fruit and minor forest products, limiting logging. If you have any examples like this, he would appreciate if you could share them with him.

Contact: David Gambill – [DGambill@devtechsys.com](mailto:DGambill@devtechsys.com)

## **Conferences, seminars and workshops**

Botswana: CBNRM workshop on monitoring and evaluation. Botswana will host this work-shop in close partnership with NRMP and SNV for selected CBNRM practitioners, in Mokolodi south of Gaborone, 10-11 June 1999.

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URL: [http://www.snv.org/snv-iucn\\_cbnrm](http://www.snv.org/snv-iucn_cbnrm)

SADC: Regional workshop on biodiversity. SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre and the Southern African Traditional Leaders' Council for the Management of Natural Resources organized a Regional Workshop on Understanding Biodiversity Related International Instruments in Lusaka, Zambia, 11-15 January, 1999.

The workshop aimed at developing a common strategy for Africa's future participation in development and implementation of both biodiversity related international instruments and trade related international instruments. The workshop brought together: Government officials responsible for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity; Government officials responsible for implementing Agreements of the World Trade Organisation; Government negotiators of the Revision of the International Undertaking of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Lawyers; Representatives of both Non-Governmental and Community-Based Organizations; and, Traditional Leaders.

The workshop covered the following: Agenda 21; Biological diversity and the Convention on Biological diversity; FAO's international undertaking on plant genetic resources; Intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge, Innovations and practices; Agreements of the World Trade Organisation and the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); Community rights, Traditional resource rights and farmers rights; OAU/STRC draft legislation on Community Rights and Access to Biological Resources; Synergy between the CBD, FAO-IU, GATT/WTO and IPRs; Report on the CBD Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Biological Diversity and Decision IV/9 on article 8 (j) of the CBD Conference of the Parties; and, Strategies for the future participation of Africa in the development and implementation of the biodiversity related international instruments.

Source: ECOFLASH, Issue No 1/99, January - February

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Constituting the commons: Crafting sustainable commons in the new millennium. The 8th IASCP conference, with this theme, will take place in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, 31 May - 4 June 2000. The following announcement is available on the IASCP web site:

Will common-property institutions be a prominent feature of the 21st century? Many scholars think the answer to this question is yes! The traditional common-property institutions of the past centuries, however, will face needs for adjustment and change in response to an ever-expanding global economy. New commons will be created as new institutions and new technology are invented. The global commons will continue to increase in importance. Multiple institutional arrangements are likely to be used in complex, large-scale commons. Market institutions may exist side-by-side with common property and governmental institutions, particularly when rights to place greenhouse gases are paired with obligations to create carbon sinks in forests that may be governed and managed by common property or governmental arrangements. Thus, the old and the new commons will be an important topic for serious research and continued policy analysis. A major challenge is to provide a coherent theoretical analysis and synthesis of prior and current empirical research so that scholars, citizens, and officials are prepared for the future.

We invite scholars and practitioners interested in the new and the old commons to participate in the conference by organizing panels, presenting individual papers, preparing posters, or participating in roundtables and panel discussions. Paper and panel abstracts should be submitted to the Program Co-Chairs by October 30, 1999.

[Ed. comment: This would be a very interesting opportunity to present work on global commons that many *CPRNet* members are involved in, including fisheries commons (and aquatic resources commons more generally) and forestry commons. Please begin considering the possibilities for participating in this important event. Given enough interest, *CPRNet* would try to help in the search for funding to participate. If you are interested in organizing a *CPRNet* panel or session, please contact me immediately.]

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## News

Sen and Wolfensohn: Respect both sides of development coin. Development economics, argues 1998 Nobel Laureate for Economics Amartya Sen and World Bank President James Wolfensohn, is the discipline that addresses the world's most enduring problem: persistent and widespread poverty. Two general attitudes prevail in development economics. One favors a hard-nosed, even fierce, approach, emphasizing sacrifices to be made for the sake of a better tomorrow, and advocating tough macroeconomic medicine.

Set against this is an alternative outlook that sees development as an essentially friendly process, based on mutually beneficial exchange complemented by the working of social protection systems, of freedoms, of laws, and of judicial systems that can earn the confidence and respect of citizens.

We lean toward this alternative outlook, Sen and Wolfensohn write, but also agree that it must be reinforced by sound macroeconomic policies, which are required to generate the resources that social and economic development demand. Profligate spending that ignores resource constraints, and fiscal or monetary requirements, can cripple an economy, and ruin this social progress. By the same token, excessive stringency on the macroeconomic side can have dire consequences for social programs such as health care and schooling. It can even undermine the financial system itself. In this sense, the two issues are like two sides of a coin; each is incomplete without the other.

Development is a process that ends with freedom from poverty and from other social and economic deprivations, write Sen and Wolfensohn. So how do we proceed? One approach is outlined in a World Bank discussion paper that presents a "comprehensive development framework" (CDF). This proposal is being debated by governments, civil society organizations, and corporate leaders, among others. The CDF calls on the development community to build

strategies that combine macroeconomic policies with the social and structural foundations essential to long-term sustainable and equitable growth.

Some of the ideas underpinning this framework are also found in a forthcoming book by Sen, "Development as freedom", which argues that development can be seen as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy. These freedoms are both the primary ends and the principal means of development. They include freedom to participate in the economy, which implies access to credit, among other facilities; freedom of political expression and participation; social opportunities, including entitlement to education and health services; transparency guarantees; and protective security, guaranteed by safety nets like unemployment insurance and famine relief.

We need a consolidated package of specific requirements that includes honest governments, open legislative and transparent regulatory systems, properly trained and remunerated officials, and a vigorous commitment by leaders to fight corruption at all levels. But the design of the framework itself is not enough. The key is how it is implemented. Countries themselves, not donor agencies or foreign experts, must be in the driver's seat.

The list of concerns is large, but so is the challenge of development, Sen and Wolfensohn conclude. Allocation of resources must be decided with all issues considered together.

Source: International Herald Tribune, as reported in the World Bank Development News, 5 May 1999

India: Tribal groups to challenge forest conservation policy. Forty indigenous Indian tribes have forged a front to fight the government's forest conservation policy, which has displaced 600,000 forest dwellers and is expected to render 1.5 million homeless by the end of the year. The tribes people are being systematically dispossessed of their land and traditional lifestyle in the name of safeguarding 50 wildlife sanctuaries and reclaiming degraded forests, says the story. Armed with sweeping powers under a new act, forest departments are persecuting the forest dwellers and NGOs espousing their cause, according to reports.

The new front has petitioned the Supreme Court alleging that callous officials are "placing the wilderness before humans, the tiger before the tribal" and denying the indigenous people's natural rights over forestland and forest produce which they have enjoyed for centuries. Its petition has also blamed the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, and the World Wildlife Fund, which are overseeing several forest conservation projects in India, for linking financial aid to the time-bound eviction of forest dwellers from wildlife sanctuaries, the story says.

Source: South China Morning Post, as reported in the World Bank Development News, 5 May 1999

EU: Socialist development ministers want better aid coordination. At the meeting of the EU Development Council last week, German Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul presented the "New agenda for European development cooperation" approved by six other socialist development cooperation ministers, namely: Claire Short of the UK, Charles Josselin of France, Pierre Schori of Sweden, Eveline Herfkens of the Netherlands, Poul Nielson of Denmark, and Rino Serri of Italy.

The agenda, which argues for global social justice, reviews different aspects of development cooperation: managing globalization, improving the quality of development aid, promoting equitable and sustainable development, supporting democracy and human rights, preventing conflicts, and humanitarian emergencies. The socialist ministers also consider that Europe should exercise increased influence on development issues within the main international bodies, says the story. It should, above all, support international debt relief of heavily indebted poor countries and act within the World Bank and the IMF in favor of a more balanced approach to economic adjustments.

Source: Agence Europe, as reported in the World Bank Development news, 1 June 1999

The Johan Skytte Prize to Professor Elinor Ostrom. The Johan Skytte Foundation at Uppsala University has awarded Professor Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University, USA, the Johan Skytte Prize for 1999. The following is adapted from the press release:

According to the Prize Committee, Professor Ostrom has been given the prize "for her profound, empirical as well as theoretical, analysis of the nature of collective action and rational

choice". The Committee is happy that the prize this year for the first time will be awarded to a woman.

The research of Professor Ostrom is much in line with the research profile at the home department of the prize – Department of Government at Uppsala University. She represents game theory, that field of political science that studies the possibility of rational action. In contrast to theories based on different ideas of basic structures as the main determinant of human behavior, game theory is focused on actors' preferences and deliberations to understand society. The most famous of game models – "prisoner's dilemma" – shows that this is not so easy as it seems. The outcome of everybody trying to do what is best for each could be the worst for everyone. Individual rationality sometimes conflicts with collective rationality.

Among Professor Ostrom's many publications "Governing the commons" (1990) qualifies as a modern classic. Her interest is in how to rationing natural resources when it comes to problems of over fishing and the like. Ostrom concludes that neither the market nor centralized politics, as it often is suggested, could solve this kind of cooperation defects. Instead she recommends a decentralized regulation administrated in small groups by the users themselves. Decisive is to get arrangements that nurtures trust among the participants.

The Johan Skytte Prize of 400 000 Swedish kronor (approximately 50,000 US dollars) is one of the largest in the social sciences and will be awarded at a solemn ceremony in Uppsala on 2 October 1999.

Celebrating that this is the fifth year the prize is awarded the ceremony will be followed by a symposium on 4 October on "The future of democracy" featuring all the winners: Robert Dahl, Alexander George, Arend Lijphart, Juan Linz, and Elinor Ostrom.

[Ed. comment: *CPRNet* extends its heartfelt congratulations to Elinor Ostrom!]

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## Projects

Bangladesh: Community-based wetlands management. The wetlands in Bangladesh consist of a wide variety of dynamic ecosystems ranging from mangrove forest, fresh water marshes, natural lakes, reservoir, oxbow lake, fishponds and tanks. Despite their high biodiversity, they face constant threat due to habitat conversion, unsustainable harvesting practices, and lack of ecological consideration. Considering all these, Sustainable Environment Management Program (SEMP) was initiated and IUCN-Bangladesh has been assigned to implement two components of Community-Based Resource Management in two well-defined degraded ecosystems, namely the *haor* and floodplain ecosystems.

IUCN-Bangladesh has fielded the project through its partners working at the field level: (1) Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), (2) Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), and (3) Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

The program aims to establish and maintain participatory environmental management practices in these ecosystems through enhanced access by the poor to productive resources and capacity building for sustainable production enhancement of these resources.

For the component Community Based *Haor* Management, parts of Pangner *Haor* and Sanuar-Dakua *Haor* at Jamalganj thana in Sunamganj district have been selected. Pangner *Haor* has coverage of more than 20 villages with a population size of about 15,000 while Sanuar-Dakua *Haor* covers about 15 villages with a population size of more than 10,000.

For the component Community Based Floodplain Management, the sites at Jamuna-Padma floodplain have been chosen at Taota Beel, Arua Beel and Gopinathpur Beel of Manikgonj district. Arua Beel covers 24 villages, with a population of about 13,000 while Taota Beel has coverage of 39 villages with a population size of 42,246 and Gopinathpur Beel covers 13 villages having a population of about 15,000. On the other hand, at the Madhumati floodplain, sites have been chosen at Chanda Beel of Gopalganj district. Five areas have been selected as core areas – Beel Chanda, Betgram, Barampalta, Andorkota and Shanpukkuria. In total, project area covers a population size of 57,000.

Both the components will use a participatory approach integrating ecological protection and restoring human needs. This will help to strengthen the fundamental connection between



economic prosperity and environmental well being in *haor* and floodplain environments. This approach provides a framework drawing together government, the private sector, public groups and other stakeholders. The natural resources management options and strategies will largely be based on the biophysical and socio-economic conditions of specific sites. For implementation of the program activities, area specific resource management committees will be formed as per the guideline jointly developed by the community and the project staffs.

Since the people living in *haor* basin and floodplain are dependent on the *haor* or floodplain resources for their food and livelihoods, it is necessary that their resources are managed with a view to sustain them for their overall well being. The primary function of the project will be to demonstrate ecologically sustainable *haor* or floodplain resources management practices that will allow access and benefits to all users, particularly the poor and landless living at the ecosystem level. The project activity will thus be planned and implemented on a participatory basis, and involve all local resource users (with special preference to women) and stakeholders through community-based planning, implementation and monitoring. It is expected that the success of these community-based interventions, coupled with a comprehensive income generating activity will lead to the replication of this approach in other wetlands of the *haor* basin or floodplain.

The following activities have been framed for the first two years of the project period in participation with the community: Bio-physical & socio-economic characterization of the project areas; Documentation of existing resource utilization system; Collection of participatory baseline data; Conduct problem census; Participatory resource mapping, Assessment and prioritization of habitat restoration interventions; Identify and organize poor women and men; Identify areas for afforestation; Initiate community awareness programs; Organize primary groups to form *haor* resource management committee; Provide micro-financing incentives to group members; Conduct training sessions; Initiate afforestation interventions with local community; Initiate pilot demonstration of appropriate farming systems/practices; Establish and manage conservation area with the local community; and, Establish the wetland management and training center (WMTC).

The degree of participation of other development activities and programs (NGOs, Local Council, etc.) will play a crucial part in achieving the goals and objectives, since the norm setting within and across communities may not be consistent with those aspired through this project. The local development initiatives undertaken by the people and agencies (NGOs, GOB) may not always be complementary to those of the project. This may often require leveling of expectations with the decision-making and executing bodies.

Discussion: Many issues came up during the course of the discussion. The nature of co-management was not well specified in the strategy while there was no disagreement regarding the need for it. There is less in the strategy on how conflict among the participants is to be resolved particularly when the benefits are either not immediate or visible. Government commitment in leasing out public water bodies was questioned given the complexity of the involvement of many government departments and local power structure. Past experience with leasing water bodies from the government was not encouraging. Sustainability of the project and its replication possibilities in other areas were seriously debated. Again, the need for such sustainability was accepted on principle. The link between micro finance and resource conservation was questioned, particularly because of the fact that the participating organizations have no prior experience in such activities.

[Ed. comment: This presentation was made at a meeting of the *CPRNet* Bangladesh Chapter on 13 May 1999. The presentation was prepared jointly by Dr. Ainun Nishat, Anisuzzaman Khan and Rashiduzzaman Ahmed, while Mr. Raquibul Amin (IUCN, Dhaka) delivered the presentation. The minutes from this meeting are available in section 'National Chapters' above.]

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## Tools

Botswana: CBNRM Support Programme, New web site. The SNV-IUCN Botswana joint CBNRM Support Programme has recently launched its new web site.

URL: [http://snv.bw/snv-iucn\\_cbnrm](http://snv.bw/snv-iucn_cbnrm)

## Literature

Jansen, Kees. 1999. *Political ecology, mountain agriculture, and knowledge in Honduras*. Amsterdam: Thela Publishers. 288 pages. ISBN 90-5538-030-X. £13.95 / US\$26.50 / E 39.50.

*Review:* The social and biophysical processes entailed in environmental deterioration are the subject of intense debate in Honduras, one of the poorest countries of Latin America. This book analyses the political ecology of precarious farming in mountainous areas. The author evaluates a rich array of social and agronomic data in order to assess existing theories that purport to explain environmental deterioration and agrarian change in Honduras. It explores the relationships between land tenure patterns, shifting agricultural practices, changing social relations of production, and producers' knowledge. Special attention is given to differential perceptions and responses of producers to environmental deterioration, and to the broader knowledge struggles of different actors about issues such as burning, the fallow crisis, biocide use, and deforestation. The study draws on political economy, human ecology, critical realism, and social constructionism and constitutes an original contribution to current debates on political ecology.

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URL: <http://www.thelathesis.nl/books/development/8-030-x.html>

UNDP. May 1999. *Global public goods*.

*Review:* This study, published in May 1999, aims at rethinking public goods management in international cooperation in the 21st century through effective management of the common goods of humanity. For this anthology UNDP brought together people like Amartya Sen, 1998 Nobel Laureate for Economics, Jeffrey Sachs, Harvard Institute for International Development, and Joseph Stiglitz, World Bank Chief Economist.

The editors of the book say the world's leaders have not kept pace with the globalization of financial markets and problems that call for greater international cooperation, reports the Financial Times. They argue that there is a discrepancy between the global boundaries of today's main policy concerns and the essentially national boundaries of policymaking. Thus many of the crises dominating the world's policy agenda are the result of public goods (and bads) which are non-excludable and non-rivalrous on a global scale: financial stability and systemic risks, free trade, environmental sustainability, knowledge, and communicable diseases.

The report calls for countries to act at the national level to maximize international public goods. Other policy proposals include improving existing international institutions and strengthening regional cooperation. A big shortcoming of the IMF and the World Bank, Sachs writes, is that they are country-focused. Externalities are addressed only when a crisis has occurred.

Source: Financial Times and Les Echos, as reported in World Bank's *Development News*, 11 May 1999