



The World Bank's Common Property Resource Management Network

The World Bank's CPRNet Newsletter

Number 8, June 1999

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In this issue

Read about: A letter from a member in Nigeria, a new member on the Adv. Committee, the latest update of the Register of Members, the CPRNet Guide, reports from the World Bank's Social Development Information Fair & Social Development Forum, CPRNet and IASCP, Community-based / NGO procurement in World Bank supported projects, Code of conduct on CBNRM and enterprise development, a conference report from Japan, Announcement of the Second Pan African Symposium on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in June 2000 (English and French), Debt relief for poor nations, donor agreement on re-focusing poverty reduction strategies in Africa, and some really interesting Tools.

Lars T Soeftestad, Editor – LSoeftestad@worldbank.org

Membership and organizational Issues

New members. Gracia Borrini-Feyerabend (Bugnau, Switzerland), Reshmi Majumder (Dalhousie University; Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada), and Steven N Schonberger (Latin America & Caribbean region, World Bank; Washington DC, USA).

Member views. Professor I O Akinyele (Executive Chairman, Food Basket Foundation International; Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria) recently sent the following mail:

“Dear Dr. Soeftestad. Thank you very much for your efforts at sustaining this network. The bulletins have been informative and useful in our work with farmer groups in communities in Oyo state Nigeria where we work. Unfortunately I have been very busy on a project that is nearing completion. I will from now be able to devote some time to network activities. As a starting point, can you send to me asap the names and email addresses of network members in Nigeria so as to initiate local dialogue on issues of CPRM? I look forward to your response. Professor I. O. Akinyele, PhD.”

[Ed. comment: In my response, I included names and contact information for all 5 CPRNet members in Nigeria. As the CPRNet agenda is so broad and amenable to collaboration across national border, I suggested that it makes sense to think in terms of also regional collaboration and networking. Towards this, I also included names and contact information for all members in West Africa, including for the National Chapter in Burkina Faso as well as the persons responsible for organizing a national chapter in Mauritania.]

Contact: I O Akinyele – Laolu.Akinyele@skannet.com.ng

Advisory Committee. Manoshi Mitra (Social Development Officer, Social Development Division, Asian Development Bank; Manila, Philippines) is a new member of the Advisory Committee. She works on, among other things, forestry issues in a number of countries in Southeast Asia.

Register of Members. An updated Register of Members, for June 1999, is being distributed at this time. The plan to include all members' email addresses in the Register will have to wait.

CPRNet Guide. The CPRNet Guide has recently been sent out (it is also available on the web site of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) – the address is below).

One reader in India (he/she did not include a name, and is clearly not a member) has sent the following interesting observations: “Thank you for sending Guide to CPRNet. I have one immediate observation to communicate to you. Working in the field to develop CPR lands

particularly government wastelands and common grazing lands we find that the most acute problem we face is of encroachment on public lands. This is a very widespread phenomenon of CPRs. This does not find mention in your comprehensive Guide. In fact the workshop that we are going to hold on CPR land on 28 July 1999 will be discussing at great length the issue of encroachment. I therefore suggest you may consider how this issue can be incorporated in the Guidelines.

[Ed. comment: In my response to this reader, I asked for further information about the 28 July workshop mentioned, and the next Newsletter will hopefully include information about it. I also urged this reader to become a formal member of CPRNet. To all of you: please continue to send in your comments. This is important in order that the Guide, on a continual basis, reflect the views and concerns of the CPRNet membership.

URL (the CPRNet Guide on the IASCP web site): <http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/cprnet.html>

World Bank: Social Development Information Fair. The World Bank's Social Development Information Fair took place at the World Bank HQ in the period 26 May - 3 June 1999 (see stories in Newsletters nos 6 and 7, for April and May 1999).

The CPRNet information station featured a large photograph of fishing boats in Bangladesh (giving emphasis to the importance of fish as a common property resource in that country), over which the name of the network was displayed in large types. Volunteer CPRNet members were available to answer questions from visitors. A large number of folders with information about CPRNet (including recent Newsletters, Register of Members, CPRNet Guide, etc.) were available, and most of this material was distributed. This was an important occasion for CPRNet to inform the World Bank community about its activities, and in this it was quite successful.

[Ed. comment: The poster prepared for the information station, including the name of the network as well as the photo from Bangladesh, is on display in the World Bank's Main Complex building in Washington DC]

World Bank: Social Development Forum 1999. The World Bank's social development staff participated in the annual Social Development Forum that took place on 1-3 June 1999. As announced in CPRNet Newsletter no 6 (April 1999) CPRNet organized a session at the Forum with the title "Property rights. Institutions and partnerships for sustainable natural resource management" (consult Newsletter no 6 for the session abstract).

Lars C Lund, a CPRNet member based at the World Bank's office in New Delhi, prepared draft minutes, that appear below in final form (the minutes will be included in the report from the Forum, to be made available on the World Bank's web site):

"The session started with a introduction to Common Property Rights (CPR) and CPRNet by Lars T Soeftestad (WBIEN), arguing for the usefulness of the CPR concept as a focus for World Bank work. He highlighted two interrelated dimensions of CPR, i.e. the legal aspects of property rights regimes, and the sociological and applied dimension of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM). He argued for an interdisciplinary approach that could address the issues of institutions (understood both as rules and as structures) and inclusion.

"CPRNet focuses on natural resource management (NRM), partly from a special angle, namely property rights. This approach addresses natural resources, to be sure. More importantly, it addresses the concept of "rights" as a culturally/socially specific link between people and natural resources, and, moreover, people's rights to access and to harvest and use natural resources understood as a bundle of entitlements. This approach makes clear the close linkage between people and natural resources, and that this is an integrated system. NRM is partly about managing natural resources in a narrow sense (as the term would seem to imply), and partly about managing the relationships between people and resources, and, in some cases, partly about managing people (both locally and otherwise). In the context of the World Bank's overarching goals, an emphasis on CPRs makes eminent sense given their contribution to both poverty reduction and sustainable development.

"Four case studies were then introduced, throwing light on the breadth and scope of CPRNet's approach to understanding and working with CPRs, within an overall context of CBNRM.

“1. *Small-scale inland fisheries in Bangladesh* (Lars T Soeftestad, World Bank Institute). The case is related to the World Bank’s long-standing involvement in the fisheries sector in the country, and an institutional change process aimed at giving local small-scale fishermen use rights to specific inland water bodies. The importance of involving all relevant stakeholders was emphasized. A system of reciprocal – or co-management – relations among key stakeholders, the Collaborative Management System (CBS) has been developed. The CBS would become a key tool for future project delivery, and could prove an effective institutional arrangement for sustainable resource management and poverty reduction.

“2. *Community-based natural resource management in Brazil* (Loretta Sprissler, Latin American and Caribbean region, World Bank). The Pilot Program to Conserve the Brazilian Rain Forest is a joint undertaking by the government, civil society and the international community. The challenge is to ensure both strong local and strong global support at the same time. The results can be seen in these two areas. At the local level this includes regularization of use rights, land demarcation and other CBNRM mechanisms. At the macro level it includes several NGO networks and working groups. Again, the active and inclusive stakeholder participation in the preparation and ongoing monitoring of the project is critical for ownership and constructive partnership.

“3. *Code Pastoral in Mauritania* (Hans-Werner Wabnitz, Legal Dept., World Bank). This case presented the evolution of the Code Pastoral: The New Mauritanian Legislation on Herders Rights’. The evolution has involved a move from a legal system stipulating exclusive land-tenure ownership rights, to a system providing for shared use rights in the same rural geographic area. Use rights are based in economic necessity, and are a long-term tradition. They are adhered to by the people traditionally living in a area because they are felt to be the ‘right’ way of using the scarce resource – or because of traditional power structures which have remained undisputed. One of the interesting aspects of the case is the process of influence in the formulation of rights and legal framework by various stakeholders. Analysis of power relations among stakeholder groups and anticipated outcomes of the legal change process is critical to achieve the desired objective.

“4. *National Environmental Fund in Philippines* (Buenafe U Solomon, Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Manila, Philippines). The National Environmental Fund (NEF) is an innovative financial and institutional mechanisms for CPR management, which has shown substantial accomplishments as regards both financial and institutional mechanisms for sustainable development, especially in the management of CPRs. NEF is designed and implemented as an alternative mechanism for development financing and implementation at the national level. It includes multi-stakeholder mechanisms, and seems to be more responsive and participatory than more traditional development financing. The issue of financial accountability and transparent operational management is critical for achieving sustained support from the donor community.

“The presentation of the cases was followed by a presentation by Lesley-Ann Shneier (Knowledge Management Unit, World Bank) on knowledge management aspects of natural resource management in the World Bank’s social agenda. The emphasis was on information ‘sites and services’ for NRM and CPR, and how SDV and CPRNet can contribute to mainstreaming and incorporation of indigenous knowledge and institutions for natural resource management into World Bank’s operations.

“There was unfortunately not a lot of time for discussion. There was agreement of the need to make the rich experience contained in these case studies available to World Bank staff, CPRNet members and others, in the form of best practices and lessons learned. CPRNet will collaborate with interested units in the World Bank on how to achieve this.

“The session was an inspiration and reminder to us (social scientists in the World Bank) of how rich and varied our experience is with regard to stakeholder analysis, participation and networking within civil society, governments and local communities, and among them. With regard to institutional issues, we have more limited experience, but the major problem is that the lessons learned in these cases are not always picked up.

“The session was attended by around 15 persons.”

CPRNet and IASCP. As reported in Newsletter no 7 (May 1999), CPRNet suggested to the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) that the Executive Board appoint one of its members to represent IASCP on the CPRNet Adv. Committee. A key argument behind this suggestion is CPRNet's emphasis on establishing alliances and partnerships *outside* the World Bank in order to more effectively promote CPR issues *inside* the World Bank. At an Executive Board meeting in June 1999, a decision was made not to do this. Below is an official note by Bonnie J McCay, President of IASCP, and dated 25 June 1999 that explains the background for this decision.

"The Executive Board of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) decided at its June 8-9, 1999 meeting not to support the request that Erling Berge serve on the Advisory Committee of CPRNet as the representative of IASCP. Members of the Board applaud CPRNet and its Coordinator, Lars T Soeftestad, for the high quality and unquestionable value of CPRNet. We look forward to future issues and activities and as individual scholars and practitioners many of us wish to participate. However, we feel that a formal relationship between IASCP and a program of a major funding agency is inappropriate, given the strong differences of opinion about such a relationship within our membership. Members from developing and developed countries are deeply troubled by the past history of loss of CPRs and CPR institutions due to activities promoted or financed by the World Bank and other lending institutions.

"This decision was not easy to make. We recognize the value of CPRNet and related activities within the World Bank as well as changes in World Bank policy. If at some future time these changes are recognized as significant in helping communities deal with CPR problems, we certainly would be among the thankful millions."

Networking

Tanzania: Women and land rights. The Tanzania Home Economics Association (TAHEA) has prepared a brief report titled "Women and Land Rights: Gain by the Gender Task Force on Land Bill (1998 Land Acts)"

[Ed. comment: Contact me for a copy of the report. Questions or comments should be communicated directly to TAHEA.]

Contact: tahea@twiga.com

Learning and training activities

Community-based/NGO procurement in World Bank-supported projects. A participatory and interactive training workshop on this topic took place in Washington DC, 2-3 June 1999. The workshop introduced staff to the potential and possibilities of community-based / NGO procurement in World Bank-supported projects.

Description: Within the parameters of "economy and efficiency", the Bank Procurement Guidelines provide considerable flexibility to allow project designers and planners to involve community groups and NGOs in providing, supplying, contracting, or procuring goods, works, and services in World Bank-financed activities. However, there are still a number of misconceptions in this area, including that it is World Bank Guidelines and policies that prevent economic and efficient community/NGO based arrangements.

The workshop introduced staff to principles of procurement practices utilized in community-based and demand responsive participatory development. It familiarized participants with procurement mechanisms that involve communities and NGOs in World Bank-financed activities.

Target audience: Team members working or likely to work on projects requiring greater flexibility in procurement methods involving community/NGO participation.

Contact: Valery A Kelsey – VKelsey@worldbank.org

Conferences, seminars and workshops

Botswana: Code of Conduct on CBNRM and enterprises. Enterprise development in CBNRM was discussed by practitioners at a workshop held in March 1999. One of the key

recommendations was that HATAB and BWMA should be encouraged to establish a code of conduct regarding CBNRM for private operators.

Source: Environment Botswana News, no 7, 25 April 1999
Contact: Ruud Jansen (IUCN Botswana) – Telephone/Fax: +267 371 584; Email: iucn@info.bw

Human dimensions of global environmental change research community. The “1999 Open meeting of the human dimensions of global environmental change research community” was held at Shonan Village, Japan, 24-26 June 1999.

The meeting gathered several hundred researchers from around the world with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, primarily from the social sciences. This was the third conference of its kind (the conferences are held biannually). Major themes at this conference were: Conflict and the Environment, Decision-Making Processes in Response to Global Environmental Change, Land Use and Land Cover Change, Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Demographic Change and the Environment. Although much of the focus was on large-scale global environmental issues, especially climate change, there were a number of presentation of general relevance for the management of common pool resources at smaller scales. This category included issues such as: the role of institutions in resource management and their horizontal (across sectors) and vertical (across levels of social organisation) linkages and the interface between science and policy. Case studies from coastal zones and subsistence agro-ecosystems should also be mentioned. All abstracts from the conference are available at the conference web site (see below).

[Ed. comment: This report was prepared by Sylvia I Karlsson at Dept of Water and Environmental Studies, Linköping University, Sweden. Together with a colleague, Anders Hjort af Ornaes, she presented a paper on “Managing complexity across scales – From common resources to common security”. Both are members of CPRNet.]

URL: <http://www.iges.or.jp>
Contact: Sylvia I Karlsson – SylKa@tema.liu.se

Africa: Development and sustainable use of natural resources, Conflict or complementarity? Second Pan African Symposium on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (venue to be confirmed), 6-8 June 2000.

IUCN-The World Conservation Union, under the auspices of its Species Survival Commission, has developed and implemented 14 regional expert networks comprising specialists involving a wide variety of disciplines relevant to the management of renewable natural resources. Four regional expert networks have been established in Africa - these are the Sustainable Use Specialist Groups of West, Central, East and Southern Africa. These regional groups were requested by the First Pan African Symposium on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Africa (Zimbabwe, 1996) to promote and facilitate Pan African research and learning on optimal natural resource management strategies for Africa.

We are pleased to announce that the Second Pan African Symposium on sustainable use will be held on 6-8 June 2000 in West Africa, probably Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The purpose of the Symposium is to explore the impact of development on the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources in Africa. Representatives of government, universities, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, private companies, and international organizations are invited.

Focus: Due to the continent's heavy reliance on natural resources for economic development, there is an emerging African voice claiming that sustainable use strategies are the key to environmentally sustainable development. A contrary view claims that conservation and development should be pursued separately, on different land, with different resources, and with different benefit streams. Other African voices claim that these different strategies can be complimentary. The symposium will explore these different approaches to development drawing on available scientific knowledge as well as practical experience, and seek to facilitate a unifying vision for development and conservation on the African Continent.

Objectives: To assess the success and failure of various conservation and development programs relevant to the management of renewable natural resources across Africa, distill critical lessons for the future, and improve Pan African scholarship in this field.

Structure: A wide variety of formats will be utilized to maximize participation and learning. Critical thematic issues will structure the program. Contributors will be encouraged to develop innovative presentations such as structured debates, mock trials, etc. Assistance from the Symposium organizers will be provided in the development of appropriate presentations. Technical data and written analysis from the various case studies will be provided as handouts.

Results: The proceedings of the Symposium will be published by IUCN, and communicated to the Second World Conservation Congress in Amman, Jordan (October 2000) as well as to a wide variety of African audiences. All technical papers prepared for the Symposium will be considered for publication in a new peer reviewed journal which will be published by the African Regional Sustainable Use Specialist Groups with assistance from IUCN Sustainable Use Initiative.

Invitation to contributors: One-page proposals for contributions to the symposium are requested. Each proposal should identify the name of the author(s), organizational association (if any), title of contribution, the natural resource and its management regime, the underlying experience or lessons that will be conveyed, and the presentation format. Contributions can be presented in either French or English. Further guidance for technical paper contributions is provided below.

Technical papers: All technical papers should clearly identify the resource and management regime, the hypothesis guiding analysis, the analytical method, and the anticipated findings. Analyses should consider the importance of: (a) Management Agents (e.g., who has authority and responsibility, who is involved, how legitimate and capable is the leadership, level of governance and civic organization); (b) the Objective of the management (i.e., the central purpose, aim or goal of the management activity, policy, plan or action analyzed); (c) Tenure (i.e., who has the resource ownership rights, for what period, what conditionalities are linked to the rights); and, (d) Regulatory Systems (i.e., the legal or cultural restrictions that apply, direct and indirect incentives, enforcement of legislated restrictions, benefits involved, time frame, access to and distribution of benefits).

Submissions and enquiries: Please send all proposals, and direct any enquiries, to Dr. Bihini Won Wa Musiti (see contact information below).

Contact: Bihini Won Wa Musiti: Postal address – IUCN Afrique Central, BP 5506, Yaounde, Cameroon
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Afrique : Développement et utilisation durable des ressources naturelles: conflit ou parfaite complémentarité? Second Colloque panafricain sur l'utilisation durable des ressources naturelles en Afrique, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 6-8 juin 2000

L'UICN-l'Union mondiale pour la nature a, sous les auspices de sa Commission pour la Sauvegarde des Espèces, développé et mis en _uvre 14 réseaux régionaux d'experts composés de spécialistes qui couvrent une grande variété de disciplines relatives à la gestion des ressources naturelles renouvelables. Quatre réseaux régionaux d'experts ont été établis en Afrique: ce sont les Groupes de Spécialistes pour l'Utilisation Durable des Espèces Sauvages d'Afrique de l'ouest, centrale, de l'est et australe. Le premier Colloque panafricain sur l'utilisation durable des ressources naturelles en Afrique (Zimbabwe, 1996) a exhorté ces quatre groupes régionaux africains à promouvoir et favoriser la recherche et la connaissance panafricaines sur les meilleures stratégies de gestion des ressources naturelles pour l'Afrique.

Nous avons le plaisir de vous annoncer que le second Colloque panafricain sur l'utilisation durable des ressources naturelles aura lieu à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, du 6 au 8 juin 2000. L'objet du Colloque est d'examiner l'impact du développement sur l'utilisation durable et la conservation des ressources naturelles en Afrique. Les représentants des gouvernements, des universités, organisations non gouvernementales, organisations communautaires, sociétés privées et organisations internationales sont invités à y participer.

Thème central: En raison de la forte dépendance du continent à l'égard des ressources naturelles pour le développement économique, une voix se fait de plus en plus forte en Afrique pour affirmer que les stratégies d'utilisation durable sont la clef d'un développement durable qui ne nuit pas à l'environnement. Cependant, les preuves soutenant cette affirmation sont rares. En conséquence, un point de vue contraire prétend que la conservation et le développement doivent être poursuivis séparément, sur des terres différentes, avec des ressources différentes et pour

différents courant d'intérêt. D'autres en Afrique affirment que ces différentes stratégies peuvent être complémentaires. Le Colloque examinera ces différentes approches du développement à partir des connaissances scientifiques disponibles et des expériences pratiques et cherchera à promouvoir une vision concertée du développement et de la conservation sur le continent africain.

Objectifs: Evaluer les succès et les échecs de divers programmes de conservation et de développement relatifs à la gestion des ressources naturelles renouvelables en Afrique, en dégager des leçons essentielles pour l'avenir et améliorer la connaissance panafricaine en ce domaine.

Organisation: Une grande variété de formules diverses sera utilisée pour maximiser la participation et la connaissance. Un certain nombre de thèmes essentiels permettront de structurer le programme. Les auteurs des communications pertinentes seront encouragés à développer des présentations innovatrices comme des débats structurés, des simulations de procès, des discussions ouvertes, etc. Les organisateurs du Colloque fourniront l'assistance nécessaire à la préparation de communications pertinentes. Les données techniques et les analyses écrites des différentes études de cas seront fournies sous forme de documents de travail.

Résultats: Les comptes-rendus du Colloque seront publiés par l'UICN et seront présentés au second Congrès mondial pour la conservation à Amman en Jordanie (octobre 2000). Ils seront également communiqués à un public africain large et varié. Tous les documents techniques préparés pour le Colloque seront considérés pour publication dans un nouveau journal scientifique qui sera publié par les Groupes régionaux africains pour l'utilisation durable des espèces sauvages avec l'assistance de l'Initiative pour l'utilisation durable de l'UICN.

Appel à des contributions: Des propositions d'une page seront requises pour les contributions au Colloque. Chaque proposition devra préciser le nom de l'auteur (ou des auteurs), de l'organisation (s'il y a lieu), le titre de la contribution, la ressource naturelle, les principales expériences ou leçons qui seront transmises et le format de la présentation. Les contributions peuvent être présentées soit en français soit en anglais. Des indications supplémentaires pour les communications à caractère technique sont fournies ci-dessous.

Communications techniques: Toutes les communications techniques devront comporter une indication claire de la ressource et du mode de gestion, des hypothèses qui ont guidé l'analyse, la méthode analytique, et les conclusions anticipées. L'analyse devra considérer l'importance des points suivants: (a) les agents de gestion (par ex., qui a l'autorité et la responsabilité de gestion, qui est impliqué, quel est le degré de légitimité et de capacité de la (ou des) personne(s) responsable(s), le niveau de gouvernance et d'organisation civique); (b) l'objectif de gestion (par ex. le but principal, l'objectif de l'activité, de la politique, du plan ou des mesures de gestion analysés); (c) les aspects fonciers (par ex., qui détient les droits de propriété de la ressource, pour quelle période, quelles sont les conditionnalités liées à ces droits); et (d) les systèmes de contrôle (par ex., les restrictions légales et culturelles en vigueur, les incitations directes et indirectes, l'application des restrictions prévues par la loi, les avantages qui en découlent, la durée, l'accès à et la répartition de ces avantages).

Soumissions des contributions et renseignements: Merci d'envoyer vos propositions et d'adresser vos demandes de renseignements au Dr. Bihini Won Wa Musiti.

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News

Debt relief for poor nations to broaden. G7 finance ministers agreed in Frankfurt at the weekend that existing debt relief arrangements for poor countries should be made deeper and wider. The scheme will be finalized at the G7 summit in Cologne next weekend.

The new outline will be more generous than the existing Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative. According to UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, 36 destitute nations will now be eligible for debt relief, up from 29 under HIPC. The Cologne program foresees as much as \$ 70 billion in debt forgiveness, which by some measures is more than twice the volume of current debt relief.

The new initiative also reduces the current six-year qualification period that poor nations must bear before receiving debt relief, Brown said, although ministers declined to give details of the new time frame. And it offers a more flexible definition of “sustainable” levels of debt payments by poor nations, allowing a greater number to qualify.

If approved this week in Cologne, the proposal would for the first time finance some of the debt relief by selling about one-tenth of the gold stockpiles of the IMF, the story adds, noting that although the amount of gold to be sold is relatively small, the sale seems certain to depress world gold prices, which have slid to their lowest level in two decades.

The gold sale would fetch about \$ 2.6 billion at current prices, but there is no guarantee that the price will not fall on further prospects of a new gold sell-off.

Development lobby groups, such as Jubilee 2000, gave a muted welcome to the G7 debt plan as thousands of demonstrators gathered on the banks of the Thames in London to press the case for more ambitious debt cancellation. “It is a modest step forward,” said Justin Forsyth of OXFAM. “There is everything to play for.”

In a report prepared by the UNCTAD, the UN said the criteria for receiving debt relief should be relaxed and the relief, including the write-offs, should bear a realistic relation to ability to pay. “Debt repayment should not take precedence over the fulfillment of human needs and human rights” by squeezing out spending on education, health, and social services essential for development.”

Commenting, the *Financial Times* says strong conditionality should remain, but be based on poverty reduction records and commitments, as well as on macroeconomic yardsticks. Debt relief should be financed by new funds, not from aid budgets.

To channel debt relief through matching funds for NGOs, as France proposes to do, could be useful, but only for limited sums. Overseas development assistance, debt relief included, continues to fall, as public opinion refuses to tolerate more taxpayers’ money being spent for no visible results. A recent World Bank report showed that aid has a positive effect on the growth of recipient countries only if they have good economic policies.

It is a cruel joke for the world’s wealthy governments to protest that they cannot afford to cancel the debts, writes Harvard Center for International Development Director Jeffrey Sachs. The poorest nations owe about \$ 106 billion in total to the IMF, the World Bank, international commercial banks, and rich-country governments. By selling just a third of its gold reserves, the IMF could achieve the \$ 7.8 billion needed to write off the debts in their entirety, without even touching the remaining balance sheet. Similarly, the World Bank could readily absorb a full writedown of its claims out of its own resources.

A constructive reformulation of the HIPC initiative should contain comprehensive debt cancellation for the poorest of these nations, 90 to 100 percent reduction of bilateral debt for the remaining countries, a reduction of the time frame from six to three years and the inclusion of more countries in the initiative, particularly those that have experienced economic shocks or environmental disasters, as have the Philippines and Honduras.

The problem of debt relief is figuring out who pays. The French and the Japanese, who have done most country-to-country lending, like the idea that Western nations would contribute in proportion to the size of their economies, while USA has a different formula in mind.

Meanwhile, Shailendra Anjaria, Director of the IMF’s External Relations Department, says in a letter to the editor of the *New York Times* that the IMF has always stressed that of the poorest countries do their part through strong programs of adjustment reform, so too must the industrial countries, by increasing official development assistance, aiming it at better performing countries and opening up their markets.

A separate letter to the editor of the *New York Times* says that the US Congress should approve IMF gold sales only for direct and immediate debt relief and not to finance the Fund’s Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, while a third letter to the *New York Times* says that IMF gold sales would undercut the already low price of gold, and this would have negative economic effects on countries from Guyana to Lesotho since they rely on the export of gold and other mineral resources to support their economies.

Source: Agence Presse France, IHT, Les Echos and New York Times
as reported in World Bank Development News, 14 June 1999

Africa: Donors agree to re-focus aid on poverty reduction. Representatives of donor countries and development organizations have agreed that their agenda for the next three years should focus on reducing poverty in Africa. Delegates to the Special Program of Assistance for Africa (SPA) meeting discussed the quality of development assistance to the region and how the partnership could help meet the challenges of accelerating growth and translating higher growth rates in SPA countries into better living conditions for the poor, the story says.

The meeting at the headquarters of the World Bank underscored that the progress made on growth and economic reforms had not yet been clearly reflected in improved living conditions for the majority of the poor. "We have no reason for complacency," World Bank Vice President for Africa and SPA Chair Jean-Louis Sarbib is quoted as saying. "The SPA countries are improving their economic management. Donors need to continue to provide generous support, in addition to the debt relief package approved by the G7."

Delegates discussed ways of promoting the linkages between economic reforms and measures to effectively reduce poverty and achieve social equity. The meeting also looked at how to improve the coordination and effectiveness of aid to Africa in the light of recent developments in the region and around the world.

Delegates also listened to former President of Mali Amadou Toumani Toure speaks on the impact of conflict on African development. A leader in efforts to resolve situations of conflict in the region, General Toure outlined some of the profound causes of conflict in Africa and the role donors could play in pre-empting crisis and resolving conflict. Calling on donors to make a distinction between development assistance and emergency aid, he pointed out that support for both market-oriented reforms and regional integration initiatives could be critical to the resolution of conflict in Africa.

SPA donors have mobilized \$ 15 billion since 1987 in support of economic reforms in some 30 eligible countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the story notes.

Source: Africa News Service, as reported in World Bank Development News, 28 June 1999

Tools

The NRM Changelinks web site. This web site has recently been updated and now includes a number of new resource links related to improving the role of community participation in natural resource conservation and management. This site now has a five-star rating from Argus Clearinghouse in the area of sustainable development.

This site has been developed as an on-line guide for conservation managers and others working to help communities identify and adopt more sustainable natural resource management practices. Links and on-site material provide approaches, information and theory in related fields such as sustainable development, adaptive management, collaborative learning, action research, facilitation, conflict resolution and information systems design. How these fields interlink in practice is also illustrated. Although the emphasis of this site is on improving community participation within natural resource management (biodiversity enhancement, conservation, riparian management, agriculture, etc.) the approaches outlined here are also useful for those working in a diverse range of development areas such as rural development, health, housing, etc.

Other updated sections in this site show how NGOs and other community groups can make the most of the Internet for sharing information, networking, decision support and learning. A guide is provided for those who are interested in developing their own web presence, particularly aimed at showing how this can be done easily and at very little cost. Links are also provided to international job opportunities in the area of environment and development.

URL: <http://nrm.massey.ac.nz/changelinks/>
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CGIAR: CAPRI. Experience has shown that institutions of collective action and property rights play an important role in how people use natural resources, which in turn shapes the outcomes of production systems. The System-wide Initiative on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI) program examines the formation and effectiveness of voluntary, community-level organizations and property institutions as they relate to natural resource management.

The issues of collective action and property rights are of special concern to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) because of their effect on technology adoption, natural resource management, and poverty alleviation. As natural resource management issues emerge in the forefront of concerns we face today, the development of viable strategies to ensure the future productivity of resources demands a more profound understanding of the motivating forces that contribute to their sustainability.

Institutions are the rules or customs that facilitate coordination among people by helping them form expectations in dealing with each other. Collective action refers both to the process by which voluntary institutions are created and maintained, and the groups that decide to act together. The term 'property' covers the range of institutions governing access to a particular stream of benefits. Property regimes are usually divided into three categories; state, common, and private. This Program considers all three types.

To address these complex issues requires an interdisciplinary approach, with insights and methodologies from a range of social, as well as technical scientists. Through collaboration between CGIAR centers, national research institutions and NGOs, the System-Wide Program is able to achieve the necessary complement of researchers to examine the environmental impact of institutional change.

The Program stresses comparative research that yields international public goods. The conceptual framework deals explicitly with the effect of differences in the biophysical, socioeconomic, and policy environment. At the same time we recognize the value of comparisons that cut across countries, ecoregions, and resources. An understanding of the factors that facilitate effective local organizations and appropriate property regimes in one resource sector can be valuable for developing policies for another resource.

URL: <http://www.cgiar.org/capri>

Negotiating management agreements. CPRNet member Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend is involved in some very interesting work on negotiating co-management agreement and plans. She has provided the following information:

The work was originally done in French, utilised at a workshop on collaborative management of natural resources in the Congo Basin (Marua, Cameroon, January 1999), and later on distributed in electronic form. With the financial support of GTZ draft translations into English and Spanish were prepared in May 99, and the English and Spanish versions are now both ready. Grazia informs me that the English version is the most complete, and it has been expanded with respect to the original in French.

The title of the English version is "Negotiating Agreements on Natural Resource Management," and the content deals with concrete process details and lessons learned in developing participatory management agreements among a variety of social actors (stakeholders). The document is not meant to be 'presented' to an audience, but utilised as a working document on paper, and/or a reference for people engaged in developing co-management agreements. Please consider the document as a "work in progress." Grazia would greatly appreciate receiving your comments, criticisms and experiences. Your comments will also be of help in connection with a planned publication on the subject of the working document, currently in preparation with a number of colleagues. Any contributions will be duly acknowledged in the final text.

The English version includes 89 slides (Powerpoint 4, size approximately 320 Kb). Depending on local page format, a slight text adjustment may be needed, but the document can be printed as a booklet.

[Ed. comment: Copies of the English version are available from *CBNRM Net*, as are French and Spanish versions. Comments should be sent to Grazia.]

Contact (for comments only): Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend – gbf@iname.com

Compas Newsletter. Some of you will definitely be interested in a new magazine called 'Compas Newsletter'. The February 1999 issue (no 1) says that "Compas" (Comparing and supporting endogenous development) is an international programme, designed to understand the diversity of rural people's knowledge, encourage local experimentation within farmer's

worldviews and have inter-cultural dialogues on farmers' knowledge and indigenous learning." The magazine is also available in Spanish.

The term "Endogenous development" is defined in the following way: "Endogenous development refers to development based mainly, though not exclusively, on locally available resources such as land, water, vegetation, local knowledge, culture and the way people have organised themselves. Endogenous development strives to optimise the dynamics of these local resources, thus enhancing cultural diversity, human welfare and ecological stability."

URL: http://www.etcint.org/compas_news1.htm

Literature

DFID. 1999. *Report on DFID workshop on land tenure, poverty and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Prepared by Robin Palmer, Land Tenure Advisor, Africa, Oxfam GB.

Review: The Department for International Development (DFID), UK, held a workshop on land rights and sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa (Sunningdale, Berkshire, 16-19 February 1999). One of the principal recommendations from this workshop was that donors should seek to facilitate active African-driven networking on land tenure and land policy, within and across different regions of Africa. Topics discussed include customary and statutory tenure systems, common property resources, women's security of tenure, land rights management systems, governance and decentralization, and legal and policy processes.

[Ed. comment: Contact *CBNRM Net* to receive the report.]