

The World Bank's Common Property Resource Management Network

The World Bank's CPRNet Newsletter

Number 9, August 1999

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From the editor

May I suggest the following: (1) Please inform me about change of email address in a timely fashion, (2) It is common practice among members to pass the Newsletter on to colleagues and friends, and this is certainly an important aspect of such a networking enterprise as CPRNet. Nonetheless, I would appreciate it if all readers of the Newsletter would register as members of CPRNet, and (3) When writing to a contact person / address in connection with a specific issue in the Newsletter, or using information from the Newsletter, please list the source (see the 'Citation format' in the Newsletter header for a suggested format).

In this issue, read about: Member views, a new web site under the World Bank's Legal Vice Presidency currently being built up, GRAF (the National Chapter in Burkina) - including the GRAF bulletin and a 2-year work program, a report on conflict management in the Sudan, a new CBNRM initiative in southern Africa, reports from several interesting workshops and conferences, past and future (covering human rights, indigenous peoples, devolutions of NRM, communal land systems in India, land and agrarian reform, land rights and indigenous peoples, pastoral rights in the Sahel, property rights in fisheries, and the 2000 IASCP conference), on spirituality and poverty reduction, the NGO industry in Africa, land reform in Brazil, NetAid – poverty, music and the web, invitation to write articles for a law journal on comparative environmental law, some useful tools (including ELDIS, Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor, GLODIS, World Bank Policy Research Working Papers, and new literature (on common lands, customary law and access to land in India, and on ethno forestry). Enjoy!

Lars T Soeftestad, Editor - LSoeftestad@worldbank.org

Membership and organizational Issues

<u>New members</u>. Enos E Esikuri (Environment Dept., World Bank; Washington DC, USA), Deep N Pandey (Faculty of Ecosystem Management and Technical Forestry, Indian Institute of Forest Management; Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India), and Mark Robson (Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto; Toronto, Ontario, Canada).

Member update. *Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul* (Professor & Reader in Economics, Lady Shri Ram College, University of New Delhi; New Delhi India) is Visiting Scholar, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, University of Indiana; Bloomington, Indiana, USA; until the summer of 2000. Email <MChakrav@indiana.edu>.

Saleemul Huq (Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies; Dhaka, Bangladesh) is Academic Visitor, T.H. Huxley School of Environment, Imperial College; London, UK; until the summer of 2000. Email <S.Huq@ic.ac.uk>.

Bradley B Walters has accepted a position as Lecturer; Dept. of Geography, Mount Allison University; Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. Email <BWalters@mta.ca>.

<u>Member views</u>. In early July, after blank CPRNet messages were sent out in multiple copies due to a World Bank computer glitch, an irritated member shared an "enough is enough, get me off this list" note with all of you. As frustrating as this was, CPRNet as a result also received strong votes of confidence from several among you. I'd like to share two of them with you:

"Dear Lars. Hi, this is Archim calling in to say thanks for keeping the network going. I am surprised that some people lack understanding for the small disaster in life electronic communication has its traps! Despite the occasional email failure ... I very much welcome the newsletters and the work you have been doing with the network. It's a wonderful source of information that I regularly copy to other colleagues in the region. So – keep going and keep us enlightened! Best wishes, Achim (Achim Steiner; Secretary General; World Commission on Dams; Cape Town, South Africa. Dated 23 July).

"Lars. Just a quick note to say that I think you are doing an unbelievable good job and very very kind service to us w/ your continued work on CPRNet. Each newsletter is informative and full of provocative ideas and contexts. Best regards, Meriwether Wilson (Meriwether Wilson; SAMS & IUCN/WCPA; Dept. of Geology, University of Edinburgh; Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. Dated 23 July).

<u>Register of Members</u>. The most recent Register of Members, for the month of June 1999, was sent out in July.

<u>CPRNet Guide</u>. Newsletter no 8 (June 1999) included a unsigned comment on the importance of addressing the issue of encroachment on public lands. The comment was contributed by Anil C Shah (Chairman, Development Support Center; Ahmedabad, India).

<u>CPRNet work program 1999-2000</u>. This will be covered in the next issue of the Newsletter.

<u>CPRNet web site</u>. The CPRNet web site on the World Bank's intranet has been revised, and new information has been added (including some key links).

[Ed. comment: The site is located on the Social Development homepage.]

URL: http://essd.worldbank.org/essd/sdv/sdvhome.nsf/SDV?OpenView

<u>World Bank's Legal Vice Presidency</u>. The World Bank's Legal Department is launching a web site devoted to tenure, property rights and legal issues. The site, still under construction, will initially only be available on the World Bank's intranet. Hans-Werner Wabnitz, Counsel in the Africa Unit of the Legal Vice Presidency, is responsible for developing the site. The web site will be expanded in the months to come, so please look it up now and then.

[Ed. comment: The web site can be accessed as follows: Go to the Legal Vice Presidency homepage, select 'Topics and regions', select region 'Africa', and finally 'Legal reform'. Hans-Werner is member of CPRNet's Advisory Committee, representing the World Bank's Legal Vice Presidency.]

Contact: Hans-Werner Wabnitz – HWabnitz@worldbank.org URL (Legal Vice Presidency): http://www-lite.worldbank.org/legal/

National Chapters

<u>Burkina Faso: Land Tenure Research and Action Group (GRAF)</u>. The group tries to meet monthly. The agenda for recent meetings has included discussion and adoption of the first issues of the new GRAF bulletin, 'GRAF info' (see presentation below in French and English).

A small GRAF core group has finalized a GRAF work program cum research proposal. It is a two-year program, the main objective of which is to "develop the profile of GRAF."

[Ed. comment: GRAF has requested CPRNet's assistance in locating funding for implementing this work program. I have suggested that the work program be included in the next Newsletter, both in the original French, and translated into English.]

Burkina Faso: Groupe de Recherche et d'Action sur le Foncier (GRAF). 'GRAF info' est le bulletin bimensuel de liaison de GRAF. Il est ouvert à toute personne intéressée par la thématique foncière en particulier au Burkina Faso. 'GRAF info' permet l'échange d'informations et l'établissement de contacts. 'GRAF info' est un tableau d'affichage pour des messages ou annonces courtes. Ajoutez toujours votre adresse, pour faciliter les contacts. Rédaction: Hubert Ouedraogo, Souleymane Ouattara, Boureima Drabo. Conseiller: Hermann Grell.

Secrétariat: Elen LEMAITRE – Addresse: GRAF, 05 BP, 6082 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso Email: ELemaitre@liptinfor.bf; Tél: +226 32 41 28

<u>Burkina Faso: Land Tenure Research and Action Group (GRAF)</u>. 'GRAF Info' is GRAF's bimonthly bulletin. Everybody interested in land tenure and common property issues is invited

to participate – particularly if their interest lies in Burkina Faso. 'GRAF Info' facilitates information exchange and contacts. 'GRAF info' also functions as a bulletin board for short messages and announcements. Please contact GRAF directly to be added to the address list. Editorial Committee: Hubert OUEDRAOGO, Souleymane OUATTARA, and Boureima DRABO, Adviser: Hermann GRELL.

Contact: Elen LEMAITRE – Address: GRAF, 05 BP, 6082 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso Email: Elemaitre@liptinfor.bf; Telephone: +226 32 41 28

On establishing National Chapters. Several members are interested in establishing national CPRNet Chapters, in particular in Africa and Southeast Asia. The GRAF experience in Burkina should provide interesting lessons and experiences on how to go about doing this. I plan to prepare a document that will give general and practical advice to people that is interested in doing this.

Networking

<u>Sudan: Pastoralists, villages and community forest management, using conflict management as a negotiation tool.</u> Pippa Trench (SOS Sahel UK) has sent the following report from a recent visit to the Sudan:

I have just returned from Sudan where we ran a workshop on understanding conflicts and common interests with one of the projects participating in the regional action-research programme on Shared management of common property resources (SOS Sahel/IIED – featured in CPRNet Newsletter no 6, April 1999).

The El Ain Natural Forest Management Project has been working in North Kordofan state since 1991. The overall objective of the project was to design and implement a long-term strategy and plan for managing the resources of El Ain forest and buffer zone, so that forest resource needs of the local people and the nearby urban communities can be met on a sustainable basis.

As part of this strategy, NFMP has been supporting the creation of community forests. The Forest Act of 1989 paved the way for forestland to be registered in the name of individuals, groups, communities, institutions and others. Such registration would bring with it the rights of ownership of all forest products, including timber, fodder, water, recreation, etc., as well as responsibility for forest management according to management plans agreed with the Forests National Corporation (the government forest management body). At present, all land in North Kordofan is owned by the state and subject to both traditional and government management regimes. A community forest provides a community with land registration recognized at the level of the state and therefore insurance against appropriation of that land by others. The allocation by the government of 35,000 feddans in the last three years to a private gum arabic company as part of their policy to attract private investment has apparently played a significant role in increasing interest among communities to establish community forests.

The project area is marginal for agriculture, but cultivation is constantly expanding, both small-scale farming throughout the state and large scale mechanized farming in the south. The result has been continuous encroachment of agriculture into livestock corridors and areas traditionally reserved for grazing under informal agreements between the traditional land 'owners' and the cattle and camel pastoralists coming from the south and north respectively. Pastoral use of these resources is seasonal and access rights are ill defined. The gum arabic plantations described above are also located in prime grazing sites and block a number of important corridors, a fact the government has recognised and responded to in the last 12 months by re-routing livestock corridors and planting notices warning farmers against planting crops in the area.

It is feared that registration of community forests may create further conflict between these different user groups as pastoralists find another area of grazing potentially blocked. The project has also been helping communities improve water sources, including the development of seasonal ponds, management of which frequently creates conflicts between different user groups, not helped by the ambiguity of ownership over all these resources.

The training workshop on conflict management was intended to improve participants' understanding of the nature of conflict, identify the key stakeholders and the various roles the project and others could play in the conflict situations that are arising. The training was carried out by Paul Clifford of Responding to Conflict, with facilitation and support from Omer Ishaq of Oxfam Sudan. The participants included traditional leaders responsible for conflict management in the area as well as government representatives and the NFMP team. The workshop provided participants with a way of looking systematically at the root causes of conflicts over resources as well as identifying shared needs and interests which can provide a basis for negotiation and agreement. It included role-play and experimenting with simple analytical tools and much discussion over how new ideas might complement traditional systems that are increasingly under pressure.

NFMP, together with local partners, is now exploring ways of involving mobile and semisettled pastoral groups in the negotiation process necessary to develop management plans for the community forests. It is hoped that by including these communities in the negotiation process it may be possible to reduce farmer-herder conflicts in the future as well as create a more sustainable management system.

[Ed. comment: This is work in progress, and does not do justice to the complexity of the situation, but Pip and I thought the approach might nonetheless be of interest to members. Pip would appreciate receiving ideas and feedback.]

Contact: Pippa Trench - PipTrench@aol.com

<u>Southern Africa</u>: <u>Community-based natural resource management</u>. Across southern Africa, there is a growing experience of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) as a strong foundation for sustainable rural livelihoods. CBNRM involves the management of land and natural resources such as pastures, forests, fish, wildlife and water by groups of rural people through their local institutions. As such it is an established and evolving African practice. The challenge today is to test and assure its continuing viability.

The Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS) at the University of Zimbabwe, and the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape have launched a three year programme of analysis and communication on CBNRM in southern Africa (defined as the member nations of SADC). This programme presents wide ranging opportunities to communicate, interact and participate in the ongoing critical debate on CBNRM in the region.

Anybody that are involved in CBNRM as a resource user, a resource manager, a civil servant, a researcher, a policy maker, or an environmental or development worker, are invited to receive a newsletter on CBNRM in southern Africa, take part in discussions and receive news about CBNRM by joining an email list (launched in early September), visit a southern African CBNRM web site for news, links and documentation (open from mid-September) and apply for a small research grant to work with the programme on CBNRM in southern Africa.

An inaugural regional meeting on CBNRM will be held near Harare, 21-23 September 1999. This meeting will determine priorities for the programme's comparative research and communications work over the coming years.

[Ed. comment: The Newsletter will be launched in October 1999, contact PLAAS to be placed on the mailing list. Future Newsletters will include updates on this programme.]

Contact: Phanuel Mugabe (Centre for Applied Social Sciences, University of Zimbabwe) – phanny@cass.uz.ac.zw
Contact: Najma Mohamed (Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies, School of Government,
University of the Western Cape, South Africa) – Email: nmohamed@uwc.ac.za

<u>The Georgetown International Environmental Law Review</u>. The Review's next Focus Issue is titled: "Lessons for the west: Comparative perspectives on environmental law."

For this year's focus issue papers are sought that explore non-Western regimes for natural resource and commons management. GIELR is interested in work that might enlighten a Western audience as to various national, state, local, or tribal level approaches – formal or informal – to environmental law that conceptualize basic tenets of environmental law alternatively and more successfully than the Western world. It is GIELR's hope that these regimes will have applications for global environmental cooperation.

Works will be judged on originality and scholarship; those interested are encouraged to submit papers as early as possible. Papers must be received by 8 October 1999 to be considered

for publication. Manuscripts should be printed on standard 8.5"x11" paper and accompanied by a disk version formatted in Word 6.0 or later.

Contact: GIELR – gielr@law.georgetown.edu, Alia Malek – MalekA@law.georgetown.edu Silvie Gallardo – GallardS@law.georgetown.edu Address (submission of papers): The Georgetown International Environmental Law Review, 600 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington DC 20009, USA

Learning and training activities

<u>Negotiating management agreements</u>. As reported in Newsletter no 8 (June 1999), Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend is involved in developing this very interesting learning and training tool. The Powerpoint document "Negotiating agreements on natural resource management" that was announced at the time has been revised and re-formated for Word.

[Ed. comment: Please contact *CBNRM Net* to receive a copy of the English language version. Comments should be sent to Grazia. She is a member of CPRNet.]

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

Conferences, seminars and workshops

<u>Devolution of natural resource management</u>. The CGIAR System-Wide Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRi) held an International Workshop on Devolution of Natural Resource Management in Puerto Azul, the Philippines, 21-25 June. Ruth Meinzen-Dick at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has contributed the following announcement:

This workshop provided an opportunity to pull together research conducted by a number of CGIAR centers and their partners, on devolution in a number of natural resource sectors (water, forestry, aquatic resources, and rangelands).

The workshop brought together 50 participants from countries with experiences in devolution from national, regional, and international research institutions and organizations working in the fields of natural resource management, including the forestry, water and irrigation, rangeland, and fisheries resource sectors. The program began with a day of presentations focused on an overarching conceptual framework depicting the interactions of property rights and collective action in the devolution process. Four resource sector papers (rangelands, fish/aquatic resources, water/irrigation, and forestry) were presented, followed by discussion. The remainder of the conference was largely devoted to facilitated working group sessions and plenary presentations of working group discussions.

Key questions included: How do different property rights and collective action arrangements affect devolution? Do these arrangements lead to more equitable, sustainable, and productive use of natural resources? What institutional and policy frameworks contribute to a more enabling environment for devolution to be successful?

The following overview paper and review papers were presented at the workshop:

- Collective action, property rights and devolution of natural resource management: A conceptual framework, by Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Anna Knox (IFPRI),
- Collective action, property rights and devolution of forest and protected area management, by Arun Agrawal (Yale University) and Elinor Ostrom (Indiana University),
- Devolution and fisheries co-management, by Robert Pomeroy (ICLARM/WRI),
- Collective action, property rights and devolution of rangeland management, by Tidiane Ngaido (ICARDA/IFPRI) and Michael Kirk (Marburg University), and
- Property rights and collective action in the devolution of irrigation system management, by Douglas Vermillion.

The proceedings, including all case study papers and summaries of working group discussions, are being prepared. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list for the executive summary or full proceedings, please contact Anna Knox.

[Ed. comment: Further background on the workshop, the full program, the overview paper and the review papers for each sector are available from the CAPRi web site - scroll down until you get to the devolution theme. Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Anna Knox are members of CPRNet.]

URL: http://www.cgiar.org/capri/status.htm Contact: Anna Knox – A.Knox@cgiar.org

India: Tribal study committee on communal land systems. A meeting of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) took place on 26 July 1999. World Bank staff member Lars C Lund, based in New Delhi, was invited to participate. The meeting was organized by the Tribal Study Committee under the ICSSR. A background note, "Note on communal land system and problems of survey and settlement and of flow of institutional finance" was prepared by Prof. B K Roy, the Chairman of the Committee, for distribution among the participants.

[Ed. comment: Lars C Lund, who is a member of CPRNet, informed the participants at the seminar about CPRNet and its activities. The Background refers to the World Bank as follows: "We are aware that the World Bank is encouraging common property resources management system, though there are many ambiguities about exactly what it means." I will contact Prof. Roy about this. The Background Note is available upon request.]

Contact: Professor B.K. Roy, Chairman, Tribal Study Committee, ICSSR Address: Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110057, India

South Africa: Land and agrarian reform, Successes, problems, the way forward. A conference with this theme took place in Pretoria, South Africa, 26-28 July 1999. The conference was convened by the National Land Committee (NLC) and the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape. The aim was to bring together a wide range of actors who are active in the rural sector, to evaluate the first five years of land and agrarian reform in South Africa. The participants included senior government policy makers, implementation staff, researchers, policy analysts, and NGO and CBO activists and field workers.

The conference assessed progress in land and agrarian reform programmes in the first five years of democracy and debated the way forward. It focused most centrally on issues of implementation and delivery, and the alignment of institutional arrangements to this purpose. However, it also explored how a coherent overall policy framework for rural development and agrarian restructuring can be constructed. Constructive critique and open debate was encouraged, within a framework of rigorous (but sometimes contested) analysis of empirical data and implementation experience.

Both commissioned and submitted papers were presented. The commissioned papers set the scene for debate and discussion on different programmes within land and agrarian reform (e.g. redistribution, restitution, tenure, farmer support) and on a number of key crosscutting issues (e.g. legal entities and local institutions, rural livelihoods, coordinated planning). The submitted papers were presented in 2-hour poster sessions.

Contact: Natashia Emmett, Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies, School of Government, University of the Western Cape Email: Nemmett@sog.uwc.ac.za – Telephone: +021 946 3860; Fax: +021 946 2864

<u>UN: Working Group on Indigenous Populations</u>. The 17th session of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) took place in Geneva on 26-30 July 1999. The two major foci of the annual WGIP sessions are: (1) Review of Developments Pertaining to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, and (2) Standard-Setting Activities. Specific topics for discussion at the meeting this year included: Relationships to land, Health, Study of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between states and indigenous peoples, a Permanent forum for indigenous peoples, the International decade of the world's indigenous peoples, and a World conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

[Ed. comment: A recurring major emphasis of the WGIP sessions has been the importance of natural resources, culturally, economically and socially; and how to ensure access to, and some measure of control over, such resources in relation to the nation state. To locate the report from this year's WGIP session, go the Sub-Commission section, where the WGIP report is located under the Sub-Commission's 1999 Report. Document no.: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/19 (dated 12 August 1999). See related stories in sections 'News' and 'Literature'.]

URL: http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf

World Bank & IMF: Annual Meetings 1999. The Annual Meetings will take place on 25-30 September 1999.

[Ed. comment: Details about the meetings will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Newsletter. For news about the Annual Meetings go to DevNews, the World Bank's online news magazine.]

URL (Annual Meetings): http://www.imf.org/external/am/1999/URL (DevNews): http://www.worldbank.org/developmentnews

<u>The Sahel: Workshop on legislation in support of revitalizing herder's rights.</u> A workshop on this topic is currently being prepared, to take place in Nouakchott, Mauritania. Tentative dates are 8-10 November 1999.

The new Mauritanian "Code pastoral," which combines traditional and Sha'ria rules with a modern legislative form (see story in CPRNet Newsletter no 5, March 1999), is an important backdrop to the planned workshop. The objective would be that all stakeholders meet, exchange information and experiences, discuss the current situation in their respective countries, inform themselves about proposed solutions, and agree on common strategies, maybe in the form of a joint action plan. Draught, the rains and herders do not know modern borders. The people working on these issues accordingly have to overcome traditional obstacles like national borders, limited administrative competencies and fragmented legislative solutions.

[Ed. comment: A more detailed presentation of the seminar, in English and French, will appear in the next Newsletter.]

Contact: Hans-Werner Wabnitz - HWabnitz@worldbank.org

<u>FishRights99</u>. Preparations for the conference "Use of property rights in fisheries management" ("FishRights99") to take place in Fremantle, Western Australia, on 11-19 November 1999, is proceeding. The purpose of FishRights99 is to provide participants with a better understanding of the nature of property rights, to explore the ramifications of allocating rights in fisheries, and to review how the design of a property rights system can affect their administration.

[Ed. comment: See story in Newsletter no 4, February 1999.]

URL: http://www.fishrights99.conf.au

<u>CPRs and sustainable commons</u>. The Eighth Conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP), with the theme "Constituting the commons: Crafting sustainable commons in the new millennium", will take place in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, 31 May - 4 June 2000.

An exciting program of panels, workshops, and fieldtrips is being organized. The panels will cover a wide range of topics from traditional common pool resources (such as forests, surface and groundwater, and fisheries), to global commons (oceans and atmosphere), new commons (Internet, genetic pool, and others), and theoretical issues that apply across various commons. The deadline for paper and panel proposals is 31 October 1999. A set of pre-conference workshops focused on traditional and new research and teaching approaches is being organized. Participants will have an opportunity to examine a collection of books and other publications on commons along with the latest edition of the CPR Bibliography. The IASCP is an interdisciplinary association with more than 800 individual members from over 108 countries. The conference will provide an opportunity for networking with colleagues from all over the world.

Conference theme. The conference will look at long-standing and new commons. Common-property institutions of the past centuries – many of which continue into current times – will be explored and examined with regard to how they adjust to technology development and changes in the structure of the users, as well as how they respond to an ever-expanding global economy. The conference will examine the role of donors as their ideas and incentives may shape the performance of different institutional arrangements. New commons, as they are created with invention of new institutions and technology, will be explored. The global commons will be examined as they continue to increase in importance. The conference will look at a multitude of institutional arrangements, as they are likely to be used in complex, large-scale commons. Market institutions will be looked at, as they 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 long-standing and the new commons will be

important topics 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.

Paper and panel proposals deadline. The panel, paper, and poster abstracts of less than 500 words should be submitted to the Program Co-Chairs at the latest by 31 October 1999. The final papers should be submitted by 31 March 2000. Please send a Word or Word-Perfect file as an email attachment.

Session topics. (1) 'New commons.' Technology development creates new common pool resources (Internet) and enables codification and management of existing common pool resources (genetic pool). How do issues of access, social exclusion, intellectual property rights, and commercialization shape the governance of these common pool resources (CPRs)? Population settlement creates common property that has to be managed by all residents (condominiums). Budgets of private and government corporations as well as international organizations (for example, EU farm subsidies) and the allocation of their shares among competing activities can also be analyzed as a common pool resource.

- (2) 'Global commons.' The use of global environment (atmosphere, oceans, forests) and allocation of resources in nobody's land exhibit high complexity, larger number, and high heterogeneity of resource users. How can we then apply lessons learned from selected international regimes to the design of governance of new international problems?
- (3) 'Natural resources and their interlinkages.' Fisheries, surface and groundwater, grazing lands, and forestry have traditionally been the strongest topics in the work of IASCP members. How can we incorporate the economic and the political context in the analysis of these resources? When we analyze change over time, what is the time frame we should examine? In addition to exploring the issues that pertain to these resources, we propose to look at the interlinkages in the use of different resources.
- (4) 'Adaptation and resilience to change.' What challenges do CPR managers face when technologies allow for more efficient (and/or destructive) use of a resource and when demographics of the resource users change? How do changes in macro-economic and macro-political systems affect management of CPRs? Did the Asian financial crisis affect local CPRs? Do common property regimes change as countries exhibit drastic shifts from stable political systems to periods of flux and a lack of well-functioning domestic macro-political institutions? What aspects of these changes can be accommodated within common property regimes and what kinds have detrimental effects?
- (5) 'Theoretical questions.' A number of important theoretical questions will be addressed that will enable a synthesis of the efforts in the empirical, case-study approach, statistical analyses, as well as experimental research. The major theoretical issues proposed to be addressed are: emergence and sustenance of self-organized cooperation; property rights, markets, and CPRs; linkages of higher-level organizations in CPR cooperation problems; heterogeneity and change among resource users; uncertainty, variability, and shocks; adaptive management of CPRs; and experimental laboratories work.
- (6) 'Experimental economics.' Given the initial experiments on common-pool resources that establish the willingness of subjects to agree upon a distribution of appropriation rights, sanction each other, and use communication for creating agreements and for verbal sanctions, what have recent experiments added to our knowledge about common pool resources? Has anyone explored multi-good commons? How does heterogeneity of assets or information affect behavior? We know that size of group tends to be positively related to contributions to public goods. Is the opposite effect found in common-pool resources? What else is going on in the study of experimental commons?
- (7) 'Failures and what we can learn from failing institutions.' What can we learn from the well-intended schemes to improve people's lives and resource management that failed to do either? Were the managers too optimistic about the capability of managing the system? Was the institutional arrangement imposed on the resource users who lacked the capability to resist a failing plan? Did the external shocks shake the CPR beyond its ability to adapt?

- (8) 'Privatization.' Under what conditions will markets work most effectively in managing and allocating the flow from CPRs? How we can apply lessons from selected successful marketable permit schemes to other CPRs?
- (9) 'Historical communal societies.' Indiana and the Midwest experienced a strong history of communal societies. New Harmony flourished in the mid-1800s and at its peak had nearly one thousand members. Shakers' communities were common in the Midwest and reached their peak by the mid-1800s. Both societies lost its importance with the onset of the industrial revolution and with the decline of popularity of their values.
- (10) 'External influences on local commons.' How much autonomy can a common property regime have? What gives a common property regime the autonomy-low importance for the national economy, its superiority over other institutional arrangements, or others?
- (11) 'Role of donors.' When outsiders donate financial and other resources to support common property regimes, their action sometimes significantly affects the outcomes both in positive and negative ways. Many of the problems come as a result of the set of ideas that are being implemented as well as the incentives the donors face. Academics share some of the responsibilities here since our ideas have been the ones that they have tried to implement.
- (12) 'Advocacy as a means of empowering resource managers.' Advocacy may improve the ways the external environment views a common property regime and empower the resource managers. However, if advocacy is pursued by an organization, this may fundamentally change the nature of the organization.

Preconference workshops. On 31 May 2000, the day prior to the official opening of the conference, a set of half-day workshops focused on various research approaches and methodologies for the analysis of the commons will be organized:

- 'Participatory rural appraisal.' Bob Fisher (Regional Community Forestry Training Center, Kasetsart University, Thailand),
- 'Experimental economics.' James Walker (Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, and Dept of Economics, Indiana University; Bloomington, Indiana, USA),
- 'Geographical information systems (GIS) and remote sensing.' Tom Evans and Glen Green (Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change, Indiana University; Bloomington, Indiana, USA),
- 'Review of the common property literature over the last 15 years.' James Thomson (Associates in Rural Development; Burlington, Vermont, USA); Victoria Edwards (Faculty of the Environment, University of Portsmouth, UK); and Nathalie Steins (Produktschap Vis Afdeling Natuur & Milieu, Rijswijk, the Netherlands), and
- 'Agent based modeling.' Joshua Epstein (Brookings Institution; Washington DC, USA). *Registration.* Online registration as well as mail registration will be possible. The on-line registration will be available on the conference web site by 15 November 1999.

Regionalization initiatives. In order to develop stronger regional networks outside of North America, a meeting will be held on 31 May in Bloomington, Indiana, to reflect upon ways for strengthening the IASCP's regional capacity and expanding its global base of practitioners and researchers. Facilitated planning sessions, by region, will also be held during the Conference. These sessions will help to shape ongoing regionalization initiatives that aim to make IASCP more meaningful for its members and contribute to its value as a global organization. Specific tasks include: collecting basic information about networks of scholars, practitioners, organizations, and institutions concerned with CPRs, in order to foster regional networks and compile directories for the IASCP and its members; identifying regional editors to amalgamate material from their regions for publication in the CPR Digest (the IASCP's quarterly newsletter), perhaps in translation; and, conducting regional workshops to produce materials for special issues of the CPR Digest focused on CPR issues in different regions. Members and other interested persons should contact Charla Britt, the Regional Liaison.

[Ed. comment: See also story in Newsletter no 7 (May 1999). The Program Committee Co-chairs are Nives Dolsak and Elinor Ostrom. For information about Fieldtrips, Venue and Accommodations, please consult the conference web site. To those of you that are thinking about submitting an abstract for a paper, and would like to discuss it, or receive advice, feel free to contact me. Contact me also if you are

interested in teaming up with other CPRNet members on submitting an abstract, or a proposal for a panel.]

Contact: Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis Address: Indiana University, 513 N. Park Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47408-3895, USA Email: iascp00@indiana.edu, Telephone: +1 812 855 7704, Fax: +1 812 855 3150 URL (conference): http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/2000.html

News

<u>Spirituality: Key to successful development, Religious leaders on poverty report.</u> Recognizing that spiritual and cultural aspects of life is key to making economic development work well for the world's poorest people, a diverse group of religious leaders told World Bank officials in Washington in early July 1999.

"The bottom line for the world's religions is that the poor should be the first priority in development," said Wendy Tynedale, of the Oxford-based World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD). "Economic growth is a pre-requisite for eliminating hunger. But we want to look very carefully at what kind of growth that is, who benefits from the growth, and what institutions are necessary to ensure the right growth is being carried out." The WFDD is a dialogue between nine of the world's major religions and the World Bank on poverty and criteria for development policy and practice. It was first launched in February 1998 under the chairmanship of the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, and World Bank President James D Wolfensohn. At a conference that month in London, the faiths presented their ideas on the nature of economics and criteria for development.

The WFDD religious leaders visited the World Bank to expand on that dialogue and give their advice on how the World Bank should shape its approach to poverty reduction as presented in its upcoming World Development Report (WDR) 2000. The WDR focuses on a different theme each year, and the 2000 edition will concentrate on poverty.

Swami Agnivesh, who came from India for the meeting, said religious leaders felt the world should integrate more of the 'family' mentality into the way it operates. "Just as the youngest ones in the family get most of the care and understanding, the strongest one eats the bread last," he said.

Ravi Kanbur, who is heading the Bank's team for WDR 2000, welcomed the group's advice, saying it represented a "coherent synthesis" of the faiths-based perspective on development.

One main point of agreement was that 'structural inequalities' – or unequal access to markets, services for the poor – can lead to worsening poverty. Also, the religious leaders' emphasis on the social aspects of development parallel the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework, which focuses on a holistic approach to development.

The WFDD's Tynedale said the leaders came to the Bank to promote a greater understanding of the role of spirituality in development and also to learn more about the challenges the Bank faces in its development work.

In its report "Comment," the group points to five main issues they say are critical for the upcoming World Bank poverty report:

- The focus of development must be on people rather than on economic processes, and, specifically, on the poorest and most marginalized. Putting people at the center of development means that any development process which creates or perpetuates poverty is illegitimate,
- Poverty is not the same everywhere and cannot successfully be tackled by applying a
 uniform set of policies across different countries or even across the communities within
 them.
- A failure to take people's values and beliefs into account will lead to their being either
 alienated from their own roots or excluded from the development process. Changes must
 come about within cultures, and according to their own contexts,
- Full and fulfilling employment or engagement in society including voluntary work should be the aim of any development strategy, and

 The WDR should make the environment a stronger focus of the report and address the issues of what kinds of growth and consumption and what mix of institutions are needed to protect the environment.

> Source: Adapted from World Bank Today, 7 July 1999 Contact: World Faiths Development Dialogue – Email: wfdd@btinternet.com URL (World Development Report 2000/01): http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/wdrpoverty URL (WFDD meeting): http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/wdrpoverty/faiths/index.htm

<u>Indigenous people: Rights fight stalls.</u> The leaders of more than 300 million indigenous peoples in more than 70 countries started campaigning in 1985 for a UN declaration recognizing their right to self-determination and land. But indigenous leaders say their campaign has run into strong opposition on those two key demands from Australia, New Zealand, the US, and Canada.

As representatives of native peoples from around the globe gathered at the UN to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, there was no celebration; just a sobering assessment of the struggles ahead. "Indigenous people have been basically ignored in many cases, are some of the poorest of the poor, and are also some of the most excluded in the development process," World Bank representative at the UN Alfredo Sfeir-Younis is quoted as saying. "They are facing serious discrimination in terms of human rights, property, and also culture and citizenship."

Despite objections from the four nations, indigenous leaders hope they will achieve their goal of getting the UN to adopt the draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People by the end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in 2004.

[Ed. comment: See related stories in sections 'Conferences, seminars and workshops' and 'Literature'.]

Source: Newcastle Herald (Australia), as reported in World Bank Development News, 12 August 1999

Africa: NGOs feel the heat of scrutiny. The numbers of NGOs in Africa have mushroomed in recent years, their spending has soared, and their political influence is growing. This growth industry, whose work has been highlighted by the latest rash of hostage taking in West Africa, faces some tough questions, says the story. Are NGOs and their staff equipped to cope with the challenges posed by post-Cold War Africa? Are they performing an invaluable task in bringing relief to an impoverished continent on behalf of wealthy governments, who are reducing their own aid programs and contracting out the work?

Or do they have power without responsibility, shaping ill-considered policies through effective lobbying and powerful television appeals at home in the West? Though inspired by the best possible motives, NGOs have been accused of prolonging the conflict in Sudan, helping to feed the Hutu militia responsible for genocide in Rwanda, and of being responsible for the ill-planned US-led intervention in Somalia.

NGOs are now spending more than the World Bank, according to the Red Cross, most of it coming from Western governments. In some countries in Africa, they provide or implement more than a fifth of total aid flows, compared with less than one percent 20 years ago. This proportion of funding has changed the relationship between NGO agencies and governments themselves. Once kept at arm's length, NGOs are now consulted and co-opted by such donors as USAID and the World Bank.

African governments have been slow to accept the need for economic reform and NGOs have a share of the blame, says John Clark, formerly with OXFAM and now a senior official at the World Bank. "Indigenous and northern NGOs have, albeit unwittingly, often helped frame the excuses which so conveniently let the African elite off the hook," he says.

Source: Financial Times, as reported in World Bank Development News, 19 August 1999

Robert Picciotto: Let's improve assistance to keep the wide world on board. Since development aid began at the end of World War II, economic progress in poverty-stricken countries has not been smooth or linear, but the overall results have been impressive. The world's people today are healthier, better fed and better educated than they were 50 years ago.

But the financial upheaval of the past two years has put the global economy at risk and interrupted progress in the fight against poverty. Resumption of equitable and sustainable growth calls for continued policy and institutional adjustments in the countries of turmoil and development where 85 percent of the world's people live.

In the industrial democracies, the historic shift spurred by the new information technologies has produced unprecedented wealth but also disruption. With knowledge replacing industrial production as the engine of national prosperity throughout the world, a similar great disruption is under way in the developing world.

Global action is needed to ease the transition.

In the past 15 years, many developing countries (especially the most populous) have made great strides in economic and social development. But per capita incomes have declined in more than a hundred countries. The number of poor people has grown tenfold or more in the transition economies of the former Soviet Union. In East Asia it is expected to double over the next two years in the wake of the financial crisis.

Increased development assistance is needed to overcome these setbacks and to improve the lot of the 1.4 billion people who are surviving on less than one dollar a day.

Current liberalization trends are not irreversible. A protectionist backlash could still induce a global depression, as occurred earlier in this century. To sustain the momentum of the international economy, it would be prudent to invest a fraction of the enormous dividends yielded by globalization for the common public good.

Increased public resources are needed to channel finance and ideas to the developing world. However, improved accountability in the delivery of development assistance is demanded by the taxpayers of the industrial democracies. Hence, a fundamental transformation in the development assistance system is in store.

The first challenge is conceptual. Institutional 'software' must supplant infrastructure 'hardware' as the principal objective of development cooperation. Sound economic management is no longer enough for a developing country to gain admission to the global marketplace. The 1997 crisis has brought to light new standards: a responsive and accountable government, an independent and credible judiciary, a well-regulated financial sector and a resilient social safety net.

The second challenge is operational. It concerns the instruments of development assistance. Retooling is under way in most development assistance agencies to reorient the aid delivery system away from 'special treatment' linked to ideological considerations toward results on the ground.

Evaluation is now built into the design of development assistance programs. Selectivity and country ownership of policy reform have become the watchwords of development assistance management.

The third challenge is systemic. The financial architecture is undergoing change to ensure that environmental sustainability; social equity and governance concerns acquire the same weight in allocations as macroeconomic and financial management criteria.

Emphasis on social and institutional development, ownership, partnership and results orientation are among the commonsensical principles which animate the comprehensive development framework recently launched by Jim Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank.

The new approach is being piloted in 13 developing countries. Unlike prior entitlement-based models, the new development framework directs external and domestic resources where they will have a major positive impact on human welfare. The promise of this approach hinges on professionally designed, broad-based, tailor-made development programs 'owned' by individual developing countries.

By combining its financial muscle with its development knowledge, partnership leverage and far-reaching information networks, the World Bank has joined other development assistance agencies in a broad alliance designed to address global challenges to financial stability, human security, public health and environmental degradation.

The logic of the initiative is compelling: Unless the poor people of the world acquire a stake in the global economy, the economic gains achieved by industrial countries may yet fall prey to the great global disruption.

[Ed. comment: The writer is Director General for operations evaluation at the World Bank. He is a member of CPRNet.]

Source: International Herald Tribune, 27 August 1999

Activities and interventions

<u>Brazil: Land reform.</u> A Brazilian scheme to be known as the Banco da Terra (Land Bank) is aimed at speeding up the settlement of Brazil's estimated 2.5 million landless peasants. Their plight may represent the country's most pressing social problem, and in early 1995 the government started making large compulsory purchases of land deemed to be under-used, in order to settle groups of the landless.

The federal government and the World Bank are expected to sign a deal soon under which each will provide US \$ 1 billion over five years in loans and grants to around 200,000 families, in groups of up to 40, to buy land and begin farming. The idea is that the compulsory purchase schemes will work in tandem with the new World Bank project.

By devolving the running of the scheme from the federal government to state and municipal authorities, the Banco da Terra seems to get families settled quicker. All in all, the pilot schemes are so far judged as being impressive, as is the speed with which the families have begun harvesting crops for market.

Source: Adapted from The Economist, 17-23 July 1999

<u>NetAid: Attacking poverty with concerts and web site.</u> Bidding to fight poverty with music and megabits, the UNDP and Cisco Systems Inc., a maker of data communications gear, have enlisted a dozen popular entertainers to kick off an Internet-based initiative to help the world's poor. The project, called NetAid, appears to represent the most extensive partnership the UN has ever formed with a private enterprise in trying to relieve poverty in the developing world.

Ultimately, the hope is that even tiny villages in the Third World will have public computers linked to the Internet. Local artisans might use them to find markets abroad, the logic goes, and farm cooperatives might use them to study up-to-date agricultural techniques. The UNDP's Administrator, Mark Malloch Brown, described the NetAid effort as "thoroughly subversive, in ways that old-line dictators have trouble getting a handle on." He said he is betting that even rulers who don't want peasants or factory workers to have global access to information will be reluctant to shut down or expel the UNDP for providing it.

NetAid's public debut is scheduled for 9 October, when the group will stage overlapping concerts in New Jersey, USA; London, UK; and Geneva, Switzerland, featuring musicians including Jimmy Page, Pete Townshend and Jewel. The MTV and VH1 cable television channels have agreed to televise the concerts in the USA and the BBC will televise the concerts in Britain.

But Cisco and Malloch Brown say that NetAid is not just another charity telethon. The heart of NetAid is not the concerts, they say, but the web site. "The money raised is not the measure of success of this project", Malloch Brown is quoted as saying. "For me the money will come, but it will come out of building a very large number of people in the millions who will keep coming back to the issues through the web site," he adds.

Source: New York Times and Washington Post, as reported in World Bank Development News, 12 August 1999
URL: http://www.NetAid.org

Tools

<u>Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor</u>. The Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor focuses on the exchange of information on indigenous knowledge (IK) as it contributes to sustainable development. The Monitor is produced by the Centre for International Research and Advisory Networks (CIRAN), a department of Nuffic, the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education.

The Monitor is published three times a year. Each issue contains three to six articles informing readers about the latest developments in various disciplines of IK research and practice. An important feature of the Monitor is the section Communications. There are various sub sections such as News and reports of the over 30 IK Resource centres around the world which all give input to the Monitor. Other sub sections include Calls; Conferences; Research and projects; Networks, international organizations; and Publications.

[Ed. comment: The March 1999 issue (vol 7, no 1) of the Monitor is available on-line. Starting with this issue, the Monitor is also being made available in PDF-format.]

Contact: Anna van Marrewijk, Editor, Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor Nuffic - the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education CIRAN - Centre for International Research and Advisory Networks Address: P.O. Box 29777, 2502 LT The Hague, The Netherlands Telephone: +31 70 4260 324; Fax: +31 70 4260 329; Email: ikdm@nuffic.nl URL: http://www.nuffic.nl/ciran/ikdm URL (PDF-format): http://www.nuffic.nl/ciran/ikdm/pdf/mrt1999.pdf

<u>ELDIS</u>. ELDIS is a gateway to information sources on development and the environment, and is available free via the Internet. It provides an ever increasing number of descriptions and links to a variety of information sources, including www and gopher sites, databases, library catalogues, bibliographies, email discussion lists, research project information, map and newspaper collections.

ELDIS currently includes descriptions and links to over 3000 organizations and over 6000 full-text on-line documents covering development and environmental issues. It can be searched or browsed free over the Internet.

The ELDIS Development Reporter is an electronic Newsletter that gives monthly updates on ELDIS activities. Two new interesting services is 'World news sources,' a country focused service, and 'Agricultural country profiles', which includes country-based information an a very diverse set of issues, including, among others, food security, land tenure, micro credit, marketing reform, forestry, irrigation, inputs, soils, and gender issues.

As a service to people with limited or no access to the Internet, ELDIS is currently testing an automated service to deliver documents by email, making use of the Bellanet web-to-email service. A web document that is requested will be sent as an email message. For full instructions, send an email to <getweb@webinfo.ids.ac.uk>. The subject field can be left empty, and the only text of the message should be <get http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/embul.htm>.

[Ed. comment: ELDIS is funded by Danida and hosted by the Institute of Development Studies.]

Contact: Tracy Zussman-Kay, ELDIS Programme

Address: Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK

Email: eldis@ids.ac.uk, Telephone: +44 1273 877330; Fax: +44 1273 621202

URL (general): http://www.eldis.org

URL (World News Sources): http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/newsp/news.htm

URL (Agr. Country Profiles): http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/agric/agricountry.htm

<u>GLODIS</u>. The Institute of Globalization, International Economic Law, and Dispute Settle-ment (GLODIS) is an Institute of the Faculty of Law of the Erasmus University Rotterdam. GLODIS was established in September 1998. The Institute is currently in the phase of formation.

Through interdisciplinary academic research, GLODUS aims to contribute to the systematic analysis of the interaction between globalization, international economic law and the development of effective dispute settlement mechanisms. It also aims to be of service to international and national, governmental and non-governmental institutions by providing them with assistance in the areas of its expertise. The work of the Institute focuses on the enhancement of the rule of law in international economic relations and in international relations in general and thereby contributes to the development of global governance.

GLODIS conducts the following activities: (1) systematic research in its areas of study, (2) the maintenance of a specialized library and an electronic bibliographical database, (3) the publication of books, articles and other texts in its areas of study, (4) the organization of international conferences, (5) the development of specialized training and post graduate (LL.M., M.Phil. and Dr. Jur.) programs (including long-distance programs using modern information technology), and (6) consultancy and information services.

The Institute takes an independent European and international perspective on its work and benefits from an extensive network of contacts and mechanisms for academic cooperation in the Netherlands, Europe and at the global level. The GLODIS team has an international composition and its working language is English. More information on the Institute and its work is laid down in its Constitutive Document.

[Ed. comment: GLODIS might be of interest for people working in the areas of: common property resources; conflict resolution/arbitration; African legal questions, and commercial and international law.]

Contact: Marianne Breijer, ELDIS, Dept of International Law, Faculty of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam Address: Burgemeester Oudlaan 50, NL-3062 PA Rotterdam, The Netherlands Email: glodis@law.eur.nl URL: http://www.eur.nl/glodis/about.html

<u>Central and South America: Working papers</u>. A number of working papers on land-ommons-related issues are available on this web site. Topics covered include: the changing role of the state in land reforms, common pool resource appropriation and costly cooperation, and endogenous factors determining appropriation in commons.

[Ed. comment: The web site is managed Alain de Janvry, Professor; Agricultural & Resource Economics, University of California at Berkeley.]

URL: http://are.berkeley.edu/~alain/

<u>World Bank: Policy Research Working Papers</u>. The series disseminates work in progress to encourage the exchange of ideas about development issues. An objective of the series is to get the findings out quickly, even if the presentations are less than fully polished. The papers carry the names of the authors and should be used and cited accordingly. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions are the author's and should not be attributed to the World Bank, its Executive Board of Directors, or any of its member countries.

[Ed. comment: The papers are distributed in print by the World Bank (and not by its commercial distribution agents). Papers from 1994 onwards are available for downloading from World Bank www and gopher sites (the www site includes abstracts of the papers).]

URL: http://www.worldbank.org/html/dec/Publications/Workpapers/home.html Gopher: gopher.cdinet.com:70/11/DEC/WorkingPapers/

<u>IFPRI</u>: Gender and development policy. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is organizing a monthly brown bag seminar on "Gender and development policy". The seminar series seeks to bring together a Washington-based network of policy makers, NGOs and participants from the development research community to exchange information about critical issues that have emerged from new research on gender and intra-household allocation.

[Ed. comment: Most of us are unfortunately not able to attend these seminars, while the dedicated web site includes information available to us all, including the papers discussed in the series, for your downloading pleasure. Topics include: intra-household allocation and gender relations, gender difference in schooling and land inheritance, gender differences in time use, gender and property rights, gender and participation in water management, and women's land rights in the transition to individualized ownership.]

Contact: Marie Hoffman – M.Hoffman@cgiar.org; Bonnie McClafferty – B.McClafferty@cgiar.org URL: http://www.cgiar.org/ifpri/themes/mp17/bbag.htm

<u>World Bank: DevNews</u>. The World Bank's Development News web site, reborn as 'DevNews', is launched with special coverage of the 1999 Annual Meetings. The World Bank hopes that DevNews will become the best news web site in the world of international agencies.

[Ed. comment: See related story on the World Bank & International Monetary Fund's 1999 Annual Meetings in section 'Conferences, seminars and workshops'.]

URL: http://www.worldbank.org/developmentnews

Literature

Chakravarty-Kaul, Minoti. 1996. Common lands and customary law. Institutional change in North India over the past two centuries. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Review: The author argues that communally held resources are not necessarily open to misuse and private exploitation, and that the 'tragedy of the commons' is not inevitable. For this purpose she examines hundreds of court disputes in greater Punjab over the past two centuries. These court disputes highlight the role of customary law and institutions of property rights devised by rural communities to induce cooperation among individuals and to discourage free riding and cheating in the use of resources held in common.

[Ed. comment: This volume is important because of its emphasis on the historical dimension of commons, that is, how they came to be the way they are. Or, what maybe is more apt: what they were before they were (more or less) destroyed. For efforts to try and understand commons such historically infused studies are absolutely necessary. In an applied context, historical work is important for reconstructing the 'evidence', as it were, for the importance of commons. The latter is increasingly becoming important as commons are destroyed, to a large extent because their importance are not understood well. The volume's premises and conclusions continue to be a potent force in the ongoing discussion of the past, present and future of commons in South Asia. The author is a member of CPRNet.]

Mearns, Robin. 1999. *Access to land in rural India*. Policy Research Working Paper 2123. May 1999. Washington DC: World Bank.

Review: To reduce poverty in India through a strategy of rural growth, by increasing the share of farmland operated in small units, requires making land distribution more equitable. Among policy measures recommended: Selectively deregulating land-lease (rental) markets, reducing transaction costs in land markets, critically reassessing land administration and finding ways to make it more transparent and to improve land administration incentive structures, promoting women's independent land rights through policy measures to increase women's bargaining power, and strengthening institutions in civil society to improve awareness, monitoring, and pressure for reform of policies and procedures that limit access to land

[Ed. comment: The paper can be downloaded from the World Bank web site, see section 'Tools'. Robin Mearns is a member of CPRNet.]

Pandey, Deep N. n.d. "Ethnoforestry: Indigenous knowledge on forest management."

[Ed. comment: Deep N Pandey is Associate Professor & Coordinator, International Network on Ethnoforestry (INEF) & Coordinator (South Asia), Asia Forest Network. The report can be found on his personal web site, see URL below. Deep N Pandey is a member of CPRNet.]

Contact: Deep N Pandey, Indian Forest Service, Indian Institute of Forest Management Email: DNPandey@vsnl.com; URL: http://education.vsnl.com/deep/

United Nations. 1999. "Indigenous people and their relationship to land. Second progress report on the working paper." Prepared by Erica-Irene A Daes, Special Rapporteur. Document no E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/18. UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

[Ed. comment: The Sub-Commission lies under the UN Commission of Human Rights. The reports were released at the Sub-Commission's fifty-first session, June 1999. It is available from UN Human Rights Documents (HURIDOCS). It is also available from *CBNRM Net*. See related stories in sections 'Conferences, seminars and workshops' and 'News'.]

URL: http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf

United Nations. 1999. "Study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between states and indigenous populations." Final report. Prepared by Miguel A Martinez, Special Rapporteur. Document no E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/20 (available in English, French and Spanish). UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

[Ed. comment: The Sub-Commission lies under the UN Commission of Human Rights. The reports were released at the Sub-Commission's fifty-first session, June 1999. It is available from UN Human Rights Documents (HURIDOCS). It is also available, in English, from *CBNRM Net*. See related stories in sections 'Conferences, seminars and workshops' and 'News'.]

URL: http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf