

CBNRM Net

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network

The CBNRM Net Newsletter

Number 14, October 2001

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From the editor

This issue includes, among others, the following: A Focus on "CBNRM and HIV/AIDS, in addition to the regular sections, including Networking, Learning and Training Activities, Conferences, News, Activities and Interventions, Projects, Tools, and Literature.

Further information on several topics in this issue is available on the web site (use the site search engine to locate information). If you have problems accessing or downloading a particular document mentioned in this Newsletter and made available on the web site, write to <mail@cbnrm.net> and request that it be sent via email.

Be sure to submit information early if you want it to be included in the next issue!

Lars T Soefftestad, Editor – lars@cbnrm.net

Membership and organizational issues

New members. Aïché Ba (LDHS; Sévaré, Mopti, Mali), Guy Bessette (Programs Branch, International Development Research Centre; Ottawa, Canada), Kate Brown (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme; Apia, Samoa), Veronika Brzeski (Coastal Resources Research Network; Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Canada), Jared Buono (Famine Early Warning System Network, Chemonics International, Inc; Washington DC, USA), Yoon Saik Chin (Isang Bagsak; Cambodia, Vietnam and Uganda & Southbound; Penang, Malaysia), Community-Based Coastal Resource Management Resource Center (Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines), Amadou T Dia (CNERV; Nouakchott, Mauritanie), Yamadou Diallo (NEF; Douentza, Mopti, Mali), Boureima Dodo (AREN; Niamey, Niger), Elmer M Ferrer (Community-Based Coastal Resource Management Learning and Research Network; Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines), Mike Godfrey (Development Alternatives, Inc.; Bethesda, Maryland, USA), Abraham Gadji (Ministère de l'Economie et du Cadre de Vie; Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire), Lazarev Ki-Zerbo (Geography from Below Multinational Group Network; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Abdoulaye Lansar (Association Malienne pour l'Information, la Communication et l'Animation Juridique; Bamako, Mali), Patrick W Mamimine (Centre for Applied Social Sciences, University of Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe), Yohannes K G Mariam (Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission; Olympia, Washington, USA), Robert Mark (Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry IQC, Chemonics International Inc.; Washington DC, USA), Graham Marshall (School of Economics, University of New England; Armidale, NSW, Australia), S Sharon Ousman (Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development; Georgetown, Guyana), Mariamé Ouattara (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Punya P Regmi (Dept of Agriculture and Animal Science, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences [affiliated with Asian Institute of Technology]; Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal), Becky Rivera-Guieb (Community-Based Coastal Resource Management Learning and Research Network; Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines), Irfanullah Sahibzada (People and Resource Dynamics of Mountain Watersheds in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, Phase II; Hilkot, Pakistan), Guindo Samba (UPS; Manako, Mopti, Mali), Mahamane D Toure (CILSS; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), and Zeneb Toure (ACFED-Sahel; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso).

[Ed. comment: The Register of Members is at <<http://www.cbnrm.net/members/register.html>>.]

Member update. Katherine Warner, formerly with FAO, is now Managing Director, Forestry and Natural Resource Management, Winrock International, in Arlington, Virginia, USA.

Member views: The coverage of CBNRM. Veronika Brzeski has commented on the geographic coverage and applicability of CBNRM, based on the following quote from the *CBNRM Net* web site (<<http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/terminology/index.html>>):

CBNRM is an evolving field, its practitioners are separated by means of various barriers, and it is a field at the crossroads of several intellectual, scientific, and practical approaches and pursuits to managing local natural resources in developing and transition economies.

With reference to the Canadian-based Coastal Resource Research Network (CoRR) she comments in an email: "We certainly don't limit our definition to developing and transition economies. Our publication 'Participatory research and CBCRM: In context' ... explores the different contexts in which CBCRM and participatory research are conducted which includes Atlantic Canada. CBCRM is also alive and well in this part of the world."

[Ed. comment: Community-Based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM), as well as CBNRM and a host of related activities and approaches are universal in their application. *CBNRM Net* underlines the cross-cultural applicability of CBNRM by emphasizing that it is an approach and a process more than a set of concrete tools (see the *CBNRM Net* "Overview" document on this, available for downloading on the *CBNRM Net* homepage). *CBNRM Net* has, following needs assessments, strategic considerations, and current resource constraints, made a conscious choice to focus on CBNRM in developing countries and countries in transition. More about this will appear in a future Newsletter. The volume mentioned above is listed in section 'Literature' below. For definitions of CBCRM, see <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/terminology/terms_processual.html>.]

Contact: Veronika Brzeski – veronika@ns.sympatico.ca
URL: <http://www.dal.ca/corr/index.html>

Mailing list and changes in email addresses. Remember to write to <mail@cbnrm.net> to inform about changes in email address and other contact information.

Web site: New material. New knowledge is added continually, including links, conferences and workshops, publications, and documents for downloading. Recent important updates include: the proceedings of a workshop in Niamey, Niger in October 2000, and the Policy Think Tank Series, both of which are presented in this Newsletter.

New knowledge can be located in various ways: (1) in the Newsletters, (2) on the 'News' page, (3) the date for last update (located at the end of all pages), and (4) the web site search engine. All CBNRM material should be sent to <mail@cbnrm.net>.

Web site: Use statistics for September 2001. *Key statistics:* Visitors - 2,267; Pageviews - 10,445; Hits - 12,122; Bytes - 170.6 megabytes.

Pageviews by selected client domains: Bhutan (bt) - 2, Botswana (bw) - 2, Brazil (br) - 2, Burkina Faso (bf) - 23, Chile (cl) - 4, China (cn) - 2, Eritrea (er) - 1, French Polynesia (pf) - 2, India (in) - 36, Indonesia (id) - 9, Malaysia (my) - 7, Mexico (mx) - 17, Namibia (na) - 13, Nepal (np) - 24, Philippines (ph) - 8, Romania (ro) - 6, Senegal (sn) - 2, South Africa (za) - 73, Taiwan (tw) - 16, Tanzania (tz) - 11, Thailand (th) - 7, Zambia (zm) - 19, Zimbabwe (zw) - 18, Commercial (com) - 6255, Educational (edu) - 63, Government (gov) - 11, Network (net) - 657, Non-profit organization (org) - 91,

[Ed. comment: (1) 'Visitor' is the number of individual visitors (as tracked by cookies) and IP-based visitors that cannot be tracked (that is, they cannot be tracked by cookies), (2) 'Pageview' is the total number of pages viewed by the visitors, (3) 'Hit' is a request to the web server for any type of file. As one particular page can account for several hits, this measure is best understood as an indication of server use and loading, and (4) 'Byte' is a unit of information transferred to visitors, for online viewing, storage on a hard drive or memory, and/or printing. Detailed use statistics are available on the *CBNRM Net* web site at <www.cbnrm.net/support/stats.html>.]

CBNRM Net and the Internet. *CBNRM Net* is now included on all the major search engines as well as a host of other search engines, and it is listed in top positions for all relevant search terms.

CBNRM Net is also increasingly listed on relevant web sites. To give an example: The *CBNRM Net* Newsletter is now listed on “The Communication Initiative” (see section ‘Networking’ below).

Focus: CBNRM and HIV/AIDS

This Focus addresses the connection between CBNRM and HIV/AIDS. More generally, as the impact of HIV/AIDS increasingly is being experienced, analysed and understood, linkages to and between HIV/AIDS and society and culture at large are increasingly becoming evident. At the same time, as preventive and curative work is being defined, implemented and evaluated, it becomes clear that the content and targeting of such work need to be changed. The need for specific tools on how to work with HIV/AIDS is growing. Likewise, experience is accumulating on various communicative aspects of how to work with HIV/AIDS. As the HIV/AIDS problematique has grown beyond the early exotic and geographically limited situation, it has taken on a position as a key issue and an integral part of the overall development efforts in many countries.

Thus, although the focus here is on the connection between HIV/AIDS and CBNRM, this needs to be located within a larger framework of the accumulating experiences of positioning HIV/AIDS work within the larger context of development work. At the same time, the various foci that are emerging can benefit from each other. It is important to keep an overall picture of how they are integrated and connected. The contributions in this Focus aims to do just that.

[Ed. comment: Links and other information in this Focus are available on a new page on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/topics/issues/hiv.html>

HIV/AIDS and CBNRM

In Southern Africa evidence is accumulating about a connection between HIV/AIDS and traditional practices of NRM, or CBNRM. A paper by Dan Mullin on land reform, poverty reduction, and HIV/AIDS (available for downloading on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see below) presented early evidence of such a connection. This opens up questions about other issues, including on communication aspects (see below).

Dan Mullin’s paper poses important questions for land reform and other development interventions. It goes so far as to say that any development interventions that do not factor in the impacts of HIV/AIDS are “professionally negligent” and “unlikely to achieve stated objectives.” It goes on to call for an understanding of the overall pandemic and “learning about how AIDS affects both the people whom land reform is intended to benefit, and the people staffing the institutions that support land reform.” When 15-35 % of the adults in southern Africa are HIV positive, this is not only an issue for land reform but also the management of resources occurring on such land.

Planning for impacts of HIV/AIDS is also necessary from the point of view that current infections will only start affecting individuals, communities, and projects in 4-10 years. Current responses to HIV/AIDS show that no planning has been done with this in mind. How do we plan for continuity of CBNRM initiatives and programmes from the point of view of the individual, household/community, institutional/sectorial and macro levels?

This is equally important when we consider that the most productive age group, 25-45 years old, is hardest hit by this crisis. This productive age group makes it imperative to plan for the impacts of HIV/AIDS as their illness and deaths affect other people around and institutions implementing CBNRM programmes and projects. In various discussions, CBNRM practitioners are beginning to identify the exodus of young people with skills into the cities as one of the threats to the success of CBNRM. Does HIV/AIDS perhaps pose a bigger threat than brain drain? Coupled with the sickness and death of individuals, HIV/AIDS also robs communities of individuals who would normally contribute to making decisions on natural resources as they abandon these responsibilities to care for sick relatives.

The susceptibility of the productive age group means communities that have access to resources are faced with a decline of skills and labour, along with a depletion of financial and reproductive assets. This undermines their ability to make use of natural resources. An example

from Malawi of suspected AIDS related deaths of extension workers has doubled work for survivors. Neither communities nor development agencies have the financial cash and other resources to hire skilled labour to keep projects running.

We need to realise that HIV/AIDS is not an issue somehow out there, but affects us, our institutions as well as our communities, and we need to start thinking of absorbing its impacts on natural resource management.

These questions subsequently received some attention on the "The CBNRM Forum", a CBNRM listserv operated by the Southern Africa CBNRM regional research and action program that is managed jointly by The Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS) at the University of Zimbabwe and the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the School of Government, University of the Western Cape (see below).

At a recent CBNRM course organised through PLAAS in conjunction with CASS and IUCN, participants expressed an interest to continue this broad discussion on HIV/AIDS and CBNRM. They were concerned that the impact of HIV/AIDS was already having a big impact on whether certain CBNRM initiatives succeed or fail. It was also pointed out that in certain areas development workers could not discuss issues of HIV/AIDS, as it is not considered appropriate. Teachers in certain rural schools refuse to discuss HIV/AIDS with young students. What roles can development practitioners, researchers, government departments, and donor organisations play?

Webster Whande (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) in discussing this has made the point that by beginning to share these thoughts and examples of how HIV/AIDS has affected certain projects, perhaps we can begin to grasp its reach and the need for future planning within the NRM field. Says he: "The impacts are far reaching and have wide-ranging impacts for the individual, gender and age, livelihoods, human, financial, physical, social and natural capitals."

[Ed. comment: Dan Mullin's paper is listed in section 'Literature' below, and can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below. The above is partly adapted from an email by Webster Whande posted on the Southern African 'CBNRM Forum' listserv in October 2001. For information on this listserv see the *CBNRM Net* web site, URL below.]

URL (Dan Mullin's paper): <http://www.cbnrm.net/library/documents/>

URL (listserv): <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/internet/ec.html>

Contact: Webster Whande – wwhande@uwc.ac.za

HIV/AIDS and assessment tools

In July 2001 USAID made public a solicitation for a "CBNRM Brief and Tool Kit". The background to and rationale for preparing the Brief and Tool Kit reads:

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a global crisis that requires attention and action by all sectors and professions. In order to address this issue, USAID Africa Bureau, Office of Sustainable Development, Environment Team has been an active participant in the Africa Bureau's HIV/AIDS multi-sector task force. The task force has been successful in bringing diverse development professionals together in order to address the HIV/AIDS issue effectively.

In the past decade, several African countries have introduced CBNRM projects in rural areas. CBNRM can be defined as: "CBNRM is the management of natural resources under a detailed plan developed and agreed to by all concerned stakeholders. The approach is community-based in that the communities managing the resources have the legal rights, the local institutions, and the economic incentives to take substantial responsibility for sustained use of these resources. Under the natural resource management plan, communities become the primary implementers, assisted and monitored by technical services". CBNRM aims to combine both conservation and development initiatives aimed at promoting rural development and participatory decision-making based on natural resources while encouraging conservation awareness.

To promote local stewardship, USAID has funded household and community programs that help developing countries manage forests and other natural resources. Efforts made to shift resource stewardship responsibilities from public agencies to local organizations have required extensive educational efforts of the staff of local NGOs. Responsible management of the world's natural resources, particularly in HIV/AIDS affected countries, is critical to sustainable economic and social progress locally, nationally, and globally.

The contract was awarded to Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), based in USA. DAI prepared the following brief note for the *CBNRM Net* Newsletter.

Development Alternatives Inc. is helping USAID prepare the next editions in a series of HIV/AIDS educational material for use by development professionals around the world. The Brief is compiled for use by field practitioners and project managers. It examines the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on both the community managed natural resource programs and the local natural resource base itself. The Brief offers short checklists for estimating local impact and on specific actions that can be taken to address HIV/AIDS issues in any on-going or planned CBNRM program.

The Toolkit is intended for use by natural resource policy makers and agencies that implement CBNRM initiatives. It looks at the impact of HIV/AIDS at many levels and within the agencies and its programs and staff. The Toolkit identifies appropriate responses for agency actions to minimize impacts and support a multi-sectorial response.

Both documents include some citations of actual cases of HIV/AIDS being addressed within CBNRM programs and a list of functional references on HIV/AIDS and CBNRM resources for interested professionals. The fundamental goal now is to illicit more documentation from the field on the interrelationship of HIV/AIDS and CBNRM activities and the responses being developed to address the epidemic in CBNRM programs.

[Ed. comment: The USAID solicitation is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below. There are interesting overlaps between this work and the ideas presented above on linkages between HIV/AIDS and CBNRM. According to DAI the Brief and Toolkit will be available from USAID missions before the end of 2001. I have recommended to DAI that they be made more easily available. Specifically, I have suggested that English and French versions of the Brief and Tool Kit be made available for downloading on the *CBNRM Net* web site, in PDF format.]

URL (USAID solicitation): <http://www.cbnrm.net/members/jobs.html>

Contact: Mike Godfrey – Mike_Godfrey@dai.com

HIV/AIDS: Communication and evaluation

Debate over the most effective communication strategies to contain HIV/AIDS has been the subject of increasingly intense attention in recent years. While it is widely accepted that information and communications represent the most effective tools humankind possesses to reduce HIV transmission, questions have arisen over which communication strategies and approaches are most effective, sustainable and appropriate.

These issues will be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Communication for Development Roundtable, a meeting of senior representatives from UN, donors, and other international organisations working on HIV/AIDS communication issues. The meeting is being organized by the UNFPA in association with UNESCO and the Rockefeller Foundation, and is being facilitated by the Panos Institute.

In order to help inform the agenda and discussion of this forthcoming meeting, an online discussion on the future of HIV/AIDS communication, and particularly the challenges of evaluation in this field, has been arranged. The Communications Initiative hosts the discussion. The discussion is designed to examine the merits and demerits of different approaches to communication (behaviour change, social change, advocacy). It is particularly designed to illuminate the challenges of evaluation of these different approaches, to enable learning and to find common ground between them.

The discussion is designed to illuminate these issues in an accessible and practical way, enabling engagement from a variety of organizations ranging from major UN and academic organisations through to grassroots practitioners.

The debate will be structured over a period of five weeks:

- *Week 1:* Behaviour change communication: The debate will be sparked by two short introductory pieces, one from a proponent of behaviour change communication programming and one from a critic.
- *Week 2:* Social Change communication: The same patterns will repeat itself in week two, with different proponents and critics.
- *Week 3:* Focusing on advocacy communications.
- *Week 4:* Will focus much more specifically on HIV/AIDS related communication and evaluation challenges and bring the debate to a sharper focus. It will ask, "What's different about HIV/AIDS?"

- *Week 5: Bringing the debate together, and identifying key questions, challenges, and issues for the Communications for Development Roundtable conference itself to address, as well as discussing further the specific outputs of the conference. The agenda for the conference is republished with names and panellists. Comments are invited, although it is made clear that not all requests and changes can be accommodated.*

[Ed. comment: The discussion begins in early November 2001. This text is adapted from the discussion web site, see URL below. To join the discussion, go to the web site and subscribe.]

URL: <http://www.comminit.com/roundtable2/discussion.html>

HIV/AIDS in a broader context

The World Bank published the following two interesting working papers on HIV/AIDS within the larger development context, in August 2001:

[Ed. comment: The two documents are listed in section 'Literature' below.]

Adeyi, Olusoji, et al. 2001. *AIDS, poverty reduction and debt relief A toolkit for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS programs into development instruments.*

Abstract: Recently, there have been unprecedented levels of political and institutional interest in reversing the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Political leadership has improved significantly in some of the worst affected countries, thus providing a more favourable environment for the fight against the epidemic and its negative effects on development. The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which emphasizes structural and social policy reforms, particularly to enhance the delivery of basic health care and education services, provides a unique opportunity to address the threat posed by HIV/AIDS. Further, governments benefiting from debt relief are expected to make their plans for poverty reduction through the preparation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). Given the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS on poverty, plans to address the epidemic are a natural feature in most if not all PRSPs.

Developed by the staff from UNAIDS secretariat and the World Bank, the working paper offers a unifying framework for analysing HIV/AIDS in the context of PRSPs, as well as examples of how the issue has been treated in the first generation of PRSPs, interim PRSPs and debt relief agreements. As such, it is hoped that it will provide country officials and their partners with information for training at the county and sub-regional levels for country teams to develop useful materials on scaled-up HIV/AIDS programs for inclusion in the PRSPs and HIPC documents. It is also hoped that it will support governments and policy makers in their work to mainstream HIV/AIDS into countries' development agendas and mobilize the resources needed to expand promising interventions and approaches in the fight against the epidemic.

Subbarao, K. 2001. *Systemic shocks and social protection. Role and effectiveness of public works programs.*

Abstract: In much of Sub-Saharan Africa, poor households are exposed to risks ranging from natural disasters to sudden changes in economic policies. One immediate result of such shocks is the loss of employment and livelihood. In this context, public workfare programs, which typically provide short-term, unskilled manual labour employment on projects such as road construction and maintenance, have been important counter-cyclical interventions in many regions, including Sub-Saharan Africa, for several decades. In the developing world in general, and in Africa and Asia in particular, public works programs have been significant policy instruments to mitigate the impacts of climatic and systemic risks on poor farmers and unskilled and semi-skilled workers.

The working paper discusses the rationale of workfare programs in the context of social risk management, outlines the design features of a "good practice" workfare program, and provides an overview of African and Asian experiences with respect to a number of design features, including the wage rate, labour intensity and project selection and implementation. The paper also reviews estimates of cost-effectiveness and available evaluations of effectiveness, and finally draws some lessons from experience. It is hoped that the study will be of use not only to World Bank staff but also to governments interested in reforming their existing programs or embarking on new workfare programs.

Networking

Asia: Virtual Resource Center for CBNRM. Launched in September 2001, the Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Asia - Virtual Resource Center is a web-based interactive information platform for researchers and innovators in Asia.

It is designed to allow users to: submit and view news, documents and links, link to other CBNRM project web sites, work on documents with colleagues from around the world, and participate in discussion forums. Resources can be submitted in any language and there are plans to eventually offer the entire interface in a number of languages. It is supported by IDRC.

Contact: Mantang Cai – mtcai@pku.edu.cn & Claire Thompson – cthompson@idrc.ca
URL: <http://www.cbnrmasia.org/>

Africa: Policy Think Tank Series. This analytical occasional series is edited by Saliem Fakir at IUCN South Africa. All past issues are available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, and new issues will be uploaded as they are published. The *CBNRM Net* web site is, in fact, the official repository of the Series. IUCN South Africa and *CBNRM Net* does not necessarily share the views presented.

The focus has so far been primarily on Southern Africa. The topics covered range wide, and go beyond CBNRM as such and in this way provide analytical points of view on the larger environmental and socio-political context within which CBNRM is positioned. Past issues have addressed the following topics: Genetically modified organisms, Wildlife management and sustainable use, Conservation areas and eco-tourism, Land tax in South Africa, Assessment of CBNRM projects in Southern Africa, Conservation, The environment and trade liberalization, People and parks, The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Sustainable use, WTO and MEAs, Globalisation and CBNRM, and Poverty and environmental linkages.

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/literature/periodicals.html>
Contact: Saliem Fakir – sfakir@icon.co.za

Northern hemisphere: Taiga Rescue Network. The Taiga Rescue Network (TRN) is an international network of NGOs, indigenous peoples, and nations working for the protection and sustainable use of the world's boreal forests.

TRN's mission is to support local struggles and strengthen the cooperation between individuals, NGOs and indigenous peoples and nations concerned with the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the world's boreal forests by means that ensure the integrity of natural processes and dynamics. The goals include promotion of socially beneficial, economically viable and ecologically sound management of boreal forests and ensuring that indigenous peoples' rights are respected and local control of resources is guaranteed. The methods used include education, advocacy, campaigns, and research and policy analysis.

Contact: info@taigarescue.org
URL: <http://taigarescue.org/>

Global: The Communication Initiative. The Communication Initiative (CI) is a partnership of development organisations seeking to support advances in the effectiveness and scale of communication interventions for positive international development.

The CI strategy includes provision of real-time information on communication and development experiences and thinking, facilitating horizontal linkages between people engaged in communication action, peer commentary on programmes and strategies, and taking opportunities to promote strategic thinking on communication and development issues and problems.

[Ed. comment: CI overlaps with CBNRM. In particular, the emphasis on sharing of broad development related knowledge using ICTs is noteworthy. The *CBNRM Net* Newsletter is listed on CI. The CI newsletter 'The Drum Beat' can be recommended.]

URL: <http://www.comminit.com/index.html>

Africa: CD-ROM on CBNRM. As a result of the recent Focus "CBNRM and CD-ROM technology" (*CBNRM Net* Newsletter no 12, August 2001; see URL below), the following resource has been brought to attention: "Africa goes digital: African content on CD-ROM and the Web". This is an annotated directory of African information in digitised format, with guidelines on mounting web sites and selecting the most appropriate service provider. The

section "Resource management & the environment" includes reviews of CBNRM projects and programs in Botswana and Zimbabwe, among others.

[Ed. comment: The CD-ROM is prepared by the Project for Information Access and Connectivity (PIAC), which is sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.]

URL (CBNRM Net Newsletters): <http://www.cbnrm.net/library/newsletters/>

URL (PIAC): <http://www.piac.org/digital/>

Email: l.levy@fordfound.org

Learning and training activities

Biodiversity conservation in theory and practice. The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy, BIOPLATFORM Thematic Network and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform are organising an e-conference on "Biodiversity conversation in theory and practice". The focus is on Europe. The conference runs from 5-23 November 2001.

The results will be discussed in a meeting of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy, Brussels, Belgium, 2-4 December 2001. The conclusions will be forwarded to the up-coming European Union RTD programme and future European Union biodiversity policy.

[Ed. comment: This would seem to be a good opportunity to explore the CBNRM angle to biodiversity conservation.]

URL (conf web site): <http://www.biodiversity.be/bbpf/econf/econfintro.html>

URL (registration): <http://www.biodiversity.be/bbpf/econf/econfreg.html>

Cambodia, Vietnam, and Uganda: Isang Bagsak. This is a learning and networking program in participatory development communication. Communication is understood as a participatory process. This process is about increasing the utilization and impact of CBNRM research. It is aimed at researchers and practitioners. The Isang Bagsak project is supported by IDRC.

At the 2nd International CBNRM workshop in Guiyang, China in October 2000, participatory communication was identified as one important crosscutting dimension of CBNRM research as well as a pressing issue for capacity building. An outcome is the Isang Bagsak project. Research teams from Cambodia, Vietnam, and Uganda are participating in the pilot phase (2001-2002).

[Ed. Comment: There are clear and interesting parallels between Isang Bagsak and *CBNRM Net*. An especially noteworthy and valuable aspect of Isang Bagsak is that it connects CBNRM researchers in Southeast Asia and East Africa. The October 2000 Guiyang workshop is presented on the *CBNRM Net* web site, among others at <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>. Isang Bagsak project is also presented on the *CBNRM Net* web site at <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>.]

Contact: Said Yoon Chin – chin@south.pc.my & Guy Bessette – gbessette@idrc.ca

URL: <http://www.isangbagsak.org/>

Conferences, seminars and workshops

[Ed. comment: See the *CBNRM Net* web site for further listings and details, including documents that can be downloaded, at <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>.]

West Africa: Networking. The IASCP West Africa Regionalization Initiative for Francophone West Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 24-25 September 2001.

[Ed. comment: All documents can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site.]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>

Afrique: Gestion de l'Environnement Urbain en Afrique Sub-Saharienne. Atelier de Formation sur la Gestion de l'Environnement Urbain en Afrique Sub-Saharienne. Plan Local d'Action 21 - Evaluation et Information Environnemental, 3-6 décembre 2001, Ouagadougou, Bourkina Faso. L'information supplémentaire au sujet du cours de la formation est disponible suivante: Cours, Programme detaille, Inscription. Questionnaire sur Agenda Local 21, et Profil environnemental urbain.

[Ed. comment: Le document mentionné ci-dessus, peut aussi être téléchargé de *CBNRM Net*; voir l'adresse URL ci-dessous. The above mentioned documents can also be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

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Bangladesh: Knowledge and the role of NGOs. The conference “Towards building a knowledge society. The role of NGOs”, will take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 16-18 January 2002. The Bangladesh Friendship Education Society organizes it.

Theme: The knowledge and information revolution is radically changing not only the lives of individuals, but also the manner in which institutions operate. Organizations including companies, non-profit groups, professional organizations, schools and colleges must reconsider how they operate internally and how they relate to one another at local, national, and international levels.

Contact: Reza Salim – bfes@bdonline.com
URL: <http://www.bfes.org/>

Pacific: Nature conservation and protected areas. The Seventh Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 8-12 July 2002. The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) organizes the conference.

Theme: “Mainstreaming nature conservation.” The focus will be on exchanging views, experiences, and ideas on how to make nature conservation an essential part of achieving sustainable development in the Pacific region.

[Ed. comment: The organizers have informed me that CBNRM is understood to be an important defining factor for understanding conservation and protected areas. This applies, in particular, to knowledge management and communication, identifying and connecting with stakeholders and in attempting to understand the linkages between sustainable development and conservation. More detailed information is available on the web site.]

URL (*CBNRM Net* Newsletters): <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>
Contact: Kate Brown – kateb@sprep.org.ws

Southern Africa: Integrated environmental management. The 3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Integrated Environmental Management in Southern Africa, 27-30 August 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The organizers are the Sasol Centre for Innovative Environmental Management at University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, the Gerhard-Mercator University of Duisberg, Germany, and the South African Institute of Chemical Engineers in South Africa.

A number of documents are available on the MELISSA web site, including the First announcement and call for papers, Abstract submission form, Instructions for authors, and Preregistration forms.

[Ed. comment: The documents can be also downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site.]

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News

World Bank: Natural resource losses key factor in global poverty. In the annual environment report “Environment matters” the World Bank states that environmental destruction and population growth are setting back development efforts in the world’s poorest countries.

Some poor countries are losing 4 to 8 per cent of gross domestic product to productivity and natural capital losses caused by environmental degradation. Vanishing forests, depleted soils, insufficient water, and collapsed fisheries also threaten the quality of life and health of millions and leave them more exposed to disasters.

The World Bank’s environmental strategy included “a full and coherent mainstreaming of environmental concerns into poverty reduction strategies, and in lending and non-lending activities”, said Kristalina Georgieva, head of the World Bank’s environment department. Economic growth should not be “at the expense of people’s health and future opportunities because of pollution and degraded natural resources and ecosystems”, she said.

Ian Johnson, World Bank vice president for environmentally and socially sustainable development, said: "Not only are we facing environmental depletion and poverty on an immense scale, but World Bank estimates show that the events of 11 September in New York and Washington will result in more suffering for the poor in the developing world. Now more than ever, it is critical to substantially increase the opportunities for millions of people that today feel left out of the benefits of economic and social progress, and to do it in an environmentally sound manner."

In nearly 30 nations, the "genuine" savings rate, which factors in a country's natural as well as human and produced capital, is negative, while per capita wealth is falling in 20 more, said the report.

The World Bank said that it is running projects with clear environmental objectives that amount to a total of \$16 billion. Together with the United Nations it is supporting projects to conserve biodiversity, slow climate change and protect international waters.

Source: Deutsche Presse-Agentur, as reported in World Bank Press Review, 29 October 2001

URL: <http://www-esd.worldbank.org/envmat/>

Bretton Woods: Defining good governance. Governance is a phrase that the World Bank had popularised in the late 1980s to describe the problems in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Bank's complaint then was that its adjustment and investment programs in that region could not yield the desired results because of a "crisis of governance."

How did the World Bank define this crisis? If the management of development in a region was not sound, if public sector management did not have adequate capacity or was inefficient, if there was no accountability and legal framework for development and if there was not enough information and transparency in the decision-making process, the Bank believed there was a crisis of governance.

Fortunately, the Bretton Woods view of governance has undergone a change since then. The definition of good governance has become more comprehensive, not necessarily determined only by the concerns of the countries and organizations that give financial assistance. Good governance is no longer equated with administrative reforms or application of private sector management strategies to public institutions. Today, it also implies greater participation of people in the development process, decentralization, government responsiveness and concerns of social equality and justice.

Source: Business Standard (India), as reported in World Bank Press Review, 31 October 2001

Activities and interventions

Malawi: USAID wants bylaws to protect natural resources. The office of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in Malawi has expressed concern over the government's delays in approving bylaws that would favour the conservation of natural resources.

Steve Machira, a USAID natural resource management specialist, said the agency, which is one of the donors for newly formulated Community-Based Natural Resources Management program, is worried over the delay which impedes them from implementing measures that could save the environment. He then urged the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs to quickly enact the laws.

Machira said that for the communities to successfully embark on CBNRM activities, government should enact by-laws that would govern the management of natural resources. He said that the program is designed to instil a sense of ownership in the inhabitants of the communities in natural resource management. "As is the case with most laws, there is doubt that delays will occur; this has been the experience with some earlier submissions," said Machira. "We, at USAID, believe this is a problem which the government need to review, especially now that it has embarked on the decentralisation process."

Deputy Environmental Affairs and Natural Resources minister Ludoviko Shati, in his speech commending the brains behind the program, acknowledged the delay but did not elaborate. He, however, warned that unless stiff environmental conservation measures are applied, the landlocked nation risks losing all its natural resources. He lauded the efforts of those working to

implement the program, saying the problem can best be solved by a collective approach on the part of the stakeholders.

Source: PanAfrican News Agency, 21 May 2001
URL: <http://allafrica.com/>

Projects

Niger: The agricultural sector and CBNRM. The “Special country programme, phase II - small-scale irrigation in the Komadougou River valley” is located in the Department of Diffa. Responsible organizations are: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), with co-financing from World Food Programme (WFP), UNDP, French and Dutch volunteer organisations, the Government of Niger and programme beneficiaries. From 1998 onwards co-financing from WFP only.

Description: The Department of Diffa in the southeast corner of Niger suffers from periodic droughts. In order to survive, residents of villages between Tam and Bosso have turned to irrigated crops, drawing water from the Komadougou River with the help of their traditional “shadoofs” (manual system for drawing water). Thanks to natural reservoirs protected by the farmers, major markets have opened up for green peppers.

An IFAD study on how to support small-scale farmers’ efforts confirmed the sweet peppers’ market potential and revealed that agriculture in the Komadougou valley could be further developed if more water were available. It also found that middlemen leased water pumps to farmers at very high prices but paid low prices for farmers’ output.

The IFAD project’s objective was to make Niger’s agricultural sector less vulnerable to drought and desertification. It therefore provided irrigation infrastructure and the means to ensure sustainable management of the reservoirs, as well as loans for farmers to purchase their own pumps and have access to modern irrigation methods. Farmer groups were organised to market their produce, enabling them to repay their loans and save some capital for future production. In rain fed areas, the programme has initiated water and soil conservation operations along the CBNRM approach to carry out environment protection works such as dune fixation and range management.

In the words of Elhadji Moussa Mastapha, a 20 year old farmer participating in the project: “By granting loans for motor pumps, the project has boosted production and made it possible to expand the irrigated areas. Before, our harvest never went beyond 15 bags of dried peppers; today, we harvest 30 bags or more. I earn a better living, I can buy livestock, and I can even think about getting married. Without the support of projects like this one, rural migration becomes a fact of life and families are separated. Our wish is to have projects that will allow people to remain in their villages.”

The project’s first phase was implemented between 1988 and 1995, while the second phase resumed in 1998. Under the second phase, communities will also benefit from the construction of village social infrastructure such as wells, schools, stores, and health facilities. Involvement of local NGOs will help ensure institutional sustainability.

Results: (1) 33 reservoir systems were set up giving irrigation coverage to 663 hectares of individual plots as well as the 18 community plots created under the project. Two of the farmers’ main problems were tackled: keeping water in the reservoirs once the river level subsided and finding an effective means of pumping that water, (2) Credit was provided to some 600 farmers who bought 265 pumps, and short-term loans were approved for inputs, (3) 2,753 farming families in the Komadougou River valley, a total of some 15,000 persons, have benefited from the project, and (4) Farmers taking part in the project have doubled their income after paying back their loans.

URL: <http://www.ifad.org/media/success/niger.htm>

Namibia: USAID’s CBNRM program. Large areas in Namibia, primarily in the north, are communally owned by local peoples. By the late 1980s, realization was increasing among them that: (1) the ecosystems were deteriorating, (2) maintaining these ecosystems was vital because of their importance to the peoples’ cultures and self-identities and because they were economic

assets, and (3) to preserve the ecosystems and promote their use for the benefit of local people, community-wide efforts were required.

Description: To develop economically viable, environmentally friendly systems, in the early 1990s, a partnership began to coalesce among community members, domestic and international NGOs, and the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN). The movement became known as Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM). In 1992, USAID joined this partnership, working primarily with and through the World Wildlife Fund. The governments of Sweden and the UK also became strong partners. Along with GRN support, Namibian NGOs have played a vital role in the development of conservancies. They provide interested communities with current information on forming conservancies and then provide training and technical assistance to help community members learn new skills. The NGOs also raise funds for developing new conservancies and assisting conservancies interested in joint ventures with marketing functions. They have a critical role in coordinating discussions around issues of common interest across conservancies and in helping the conservancies bring issues to the attention of the Government. To ensure program coordination and to facilitate sustainability of the CBNRM program after the end of donor funding, the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO) was established. NACSO has become a collaborative and extremely productive partnership of 11 NGOs organizations moving the program forward.

Results: As of September 2001, fourteen conservancies have been registered with the GRN, protecting nearly 10 million acres of communal areas. Another 20 or so communities are in various stages of forming a conservancy with the help of the MET and local NGOs. As can be seen from the map, most of the conservancies are located in the northern part of the country. This is due to the fact that most of the wildlife and the potential for increases in wildlife populations reside in these areas. More communities, especially those in the central and southern parts of Namibia, are also interested in forming conservancies. Interest will grow once other natural resources (grazing lands, freshwater fish, etc.) are formally incorporated into the CBNRM program.

In just six years, the conservancies have gone from no income to nearly US \$600,000 in revenues. This is particularly impressive, as tourism has been greatly constrained by insurgency problems in the Northeast, primarily due to spill over from the war in Angola. Torra Conservancy, the first to become totally self-sufficient, is ploughing its profits back into the community.

URL: <http://www.usaid.org/na/project.asp?proid=3>

Malawi and Zimbabwe: NRM and sustainable livelihoods - compatibility or conflict? The purpose of this natural resources management and sustainable livelihoods project, which was funded by DFUD, was to assess proposed natural resources management reform policies in the context of the local capacity and viability of community institutions and management systems in Africa. The primary focus of the research was on CBNRM institutions and mechanisms in Malawi and Zimbabwe. The intention was to facilitate the development of effective policies for sustainable natural resources management, both in the countries of focus and more widely in countries with similar conditions, through sustainable livelihood approaches.

[Ed. comment: The web site includes several pages and files, many of which can be downloaded, organized in the following categories: Summary, Report, PRA studies, Methodology and Reviews.]

URL: <http://www.nrmafrica.org/>

Vietnam: CBNRM in Kado village, Lad Dong Province. Kado, an upland village in Lam Dong province of Vietnam, is characterized by diversity in natural and socio-economic features. This diversity offers a good opportunity to study the community arrangement for natural resource use and management. The community-based approach of the research project includes the participation of local villagers in the process of designing and implementing research activities. The identification of target groups, based on criteria such as ethnicity, wealth ranking and gender, and the involvement of local stakeholders, especially local administrators, foresters and rural extension workers, help to promote the approach both in enhancing the capability and confidence of villagers and improving skills and attitudes of outside institutions. Certain technical and institutional solutions such as integrated farming, forest-garden, community

woodlot, and common land management have been tested and the community has adopted some. Impacts were also observed in the improvement of the research capability of the involved researchers in conducting action-oriented research.

[Ed. comment: The report on this project, prepared by Luu Trong Hieu and Hoang Huu Cai, is available on the IDRC web site, see URL below.]

URL: <http://www.idrc.ca/cbnrm/documents/publications/hieucrai.htm>

Tools

How to access the Internet via email. For persons with email access only, it is possible to obtain documents on the Web using one of a number of mail servers set up for this purpose. You send a command by email, such as 'get' or 'send' followed by the URL of the Web page you want. The server then retrieves the file from its location, and sends it to you by return email. This should in turn give you URLs of other linked pages, which you can request next. The process is slow compared to Web browsing, and response times may vary significantly depending on your location and network traffic. Nevertheless these services, which in effect do your browsing for you, are now being used regularly.

The following major sites are currently providing this service <webmail@www.ucc.ie>, <agora@kamakura.mss.co.jp>, <agora@dna.affrc.go.jp>, <agora@info.lanica.utexas.edu> and <w3mail@gmd.de>. A 'help' message to any of the servers will bring you a file explaining the particular commands it uses. In addition to the basic "get" or "send" command, most servers have additional commands to select whether to receive the files as html (which can be displayed by a Web browser, even if you are not on-line) or as plain text, or even to get images as well.

Be moderate in your use of these servers, which are provided as a public service by volunteers. Excessive traffic has caused the abandonment of at least one such effort in the past. These servers are experimental, and you may have to try several before you find one that is currently working satisfactorily.

Example 1: To get the file <<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/elecnet.html>>, as a text file, including URLs of linked sites, write an email to <agora@dna.affrc.go.jp> with the following text <send <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/elecnet.html>>.

Example 2: To get the file from <w3mail@gmd.de>, the message should be <get -t -u -a <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/elecnet.html>>.

For more information: To get an up-to-date list of available email Web servers, send a message to <agora-l@mas-info.com.ar>. To get an extensive guide to 'Accessing the Internet by email', do the following: (1) for South America, U.S., and Canada, send the following message <send usenet/news.answers/internet-services/access-via-email> to <mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu>; and (ii) Elsewhere in the world send the following message <send lis-iis e-access-inet.txt> to <mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk>.

URL: <http://www.africapolicy.org/bp/inet3.html>

Africa: The USAID CBNRM brief and tool kit. See Focus "CBNRM and HIV/AIDS" above.

Literature

[Ed. comment: This section includes key CBNRM-related literature, new and old, published and grey. Documents submitted by members and made available for downloading on the *CBNRM Net* web site are routinely listed here. Most documents included can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site (to locate documents use the web site search engine). Some of the documents listed are reviewed, discussed, or otherwise mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter.]

Brzeski, V J, J Graham, and G F Newkirk. 2001. *Participatory research and CBCRM: In Context*. Coastal Resources Research Network (CoRR) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada), Halifax, Canada.

[Ed. comment: *Background and content:* In August-September 1999 CoRR held a Summer Institute on Participatory Research (PR) in Community Based Coastal Resources Management (CBCRM) where a group of community members, CBCRM facilitators and practitioners, academics, and NGO workers from South East Asia and North America shared their experiences. Gaining control over the management of resources is still a struggle for communities – there are many obstacles, some

similar and some different depending on the context. The context in which PR and CBCRM take place has an enormous influence on how they are carried out and applied. The book is built upon the questions asked and the responses offered during the 1999 event. The output of the discussions has been structured in a readable format to make the lessons more accessible. The volume is available for USD 15 (plus shipping and handling) from CoRR). Email <corr@is.dal.ca>. See also section 'Membership and organizational issues' above.]

URL: <http://www.dal.ca/~corr/Publications.htm>

International Institute for Rural Reconstruction. 1998. *Participatory methods in community-based coastal resource management*. 3 vols. International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Silang, Cavite, Philippines.]

[Ed. comment: The volume is available for USD 10 (plus shipping and handling) from the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR). Postal address: IIRR, Silang, Cavite 4118, Philippines. Email <pub-iirr@cav.pworld.net.ph>.

URL: <http://www.dal.ca/corr/Publications.htm>]

Mullins, Dan. 2001. "Land reform, poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS." Paper presented at the SARP conference on Land Reform and Poverty Alleviation in Southern Africa. Pretoria, South Africa, 4-5 June 2001.

CBNRM Net

Tielkes, E, E Schlecht et P Hiernaux, eds. 2001. *Elevage et gestion de parcours au Sahel, implications pour le développement*. Comptes-rendus d'un atelier régional ouest-africain sur "La gestion des pâturages et les projets de développement: quelles perspectives?" tenu du 2 au 6 octobre 2000 à Niamey, Niger. Verlag Grauer, Beuren, Stuttgart, Germany. ISBN 3-86186-369-3.

[Ed. comment: Prix, env. 26.50 ECU / 24.00 US \$. Ce volume est en anglais et/ou français, et comprend des résumés de documents, des évaluations et une liste de participants. Il est téléchargeable à partir de CBNRM Net. Price ca. Ecu 26.50 / USD 24.00. This volume, that is, abstracts of papers, Preface, Evaluation and List of Participants, in English and/or French, can be downloaded from the CBNRM Net web site, see URL below.]

URL: http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/niger_001.html

Contact: Eric Tielkes – tielkes@uni-hohenheim.de

World Bank. 2001. *AIDS, poverty reduction and debt relief. A toolkit for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS programs into development instruments*. By Olusoji Adeyi, Robert Hecht, Elesani Njobvu and Agnes Soucat. Africa Region Human Development. Working Paper Series.

[Ed. comment: This report is abstracted above, in section 'Focus'.]

World Bank. 2001. *Systemic shocks and social protection. Role and effectiveness of public works programs*. By K Subbarao. Africa Region Human Development. Working Paper Series.

[Ed. comment: This report is abstracted above, in section 'Focus'.]