

CBNRM Net

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network

The CBNRM Net Newsletter

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From the editor

This issue includes, among others, a Focus on the Dina, the legal code of the Fulbe empire in Macina (in present day Mali) in the 19th century (French and English language versions), and a Focus on recent charges of corruption in Malawi and the implications for Danish CBNRM-related development assistance. The regular sections are of course available, including Membership and organizational issues, Networking, Learning and training activities, Conferences, seminars and workshops, Activities and interventions, Projects, Good practice, Tools, and Literature. A new section Research has been introduced.

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

Because of my travel schedule in February and March, the next issue will appear in early April. Be sure to submit information early in order that it will be included!

Lars T Soeftestad – lars@cbnrm.net

Membership and organizational issues

New members. Amadou Abdou (Min des Ressources Animales DPA/PF; Niamey, Niger), Tahirou Abdourahmane (ADRI; Niamey, Niger), Ag Wattan Albidaoui (Chambre d'agriculture Menaka; Menaka, Mali), Bassirou Alhou (DAP-PNEDD/PNUD; Zinder, Niger), Amadou Almoustapha (Programme Menaka/SNV; Menekam, Mali), Steve Andersen (Projet Pastoral CARE; Diffa, Niger), Daniel André (Min Environnement/GTZ; St-Louis, Senegal), Maidaji Bagaoudou (Min des Ressources Animales; Niamey, Niger), Némaoua Banaon (CEFRAP; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Maxime Banoin (Fac Agronomie, Université de Niamey; Niamey, Niger), Véronique Barraud (CAMEL; Lyon, France), Moustapha Bass (AREN; Niamey, Niger), Marie-Louise Beerling (RDP Livestock Services; Zeist, Netherlands), Mianbé Bemadjiel (SCMR/LAI/CAEDESCE; N'Djamena, Chad), Ali Bety (PDRT/GTZ; Tahoua, Niger), Brigitte Bohlinger (KARKARA/DED; Diffa, Niger), Maiga Boubacar (CEFRAP; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Issa A Boubacar (Banque Mondiale; Niamey, Niger), Comité Inter-états de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel (GTZ; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Lassine Coullibaly (Institute d'Economie Rurale; Bamako, Mali), Abdoulaye Dakoure (GTZ-Poni; Gzour, Burkina Faso), Charles Degol (CECADEC/ Pala; N'Djamena, Chad), Ron Delnoye (PRIVAT/SNV; Birni Konni, Niger), Ali Diallo (CEFRAP; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Moustapha Diallo (CARE; Maradi, Niger), Hamidou A Diallo (CERFLA; Dakar, Senegal), Bocar Diao (PAGERNA; Kaolack, Senegal), Abdoulaye A Diaouré (Programme D J Elevage Minika; Menaka, Mali), Gustave Diendere (ODE; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Saidou Djimrao (Téra Nord/SNV/PCLCP; Niamey, Niger), Aboubacar Djimraou (Projet Pastoral, CARE; Diffa, Niger), Mahalmadane Djiteye (Institute d'Economie Rurale; Bamako, Mali), Sylvia Dorland (SNV; Zinder, Niger), Claudia Duwe (PDRT/DED; Tahoua, Niger), Dirk Effler (PASP/GTZ; Niamey, Niger), Elvire Eijkman (Centre d'études Africaines; Leiden,

Netherlands), Maman Elhadji Moutari; PASEL/ Coop Suisse; Niamey, Niger), Malick Faye (Projet d'Appui à l'Elevage; Dakar, Senegal), Julie E Fischer (Guinea Expanded Natural Resource Management, Winrock International; Guinea), Day D B Flores (Alaminos, Laguna, Philippines), Christian Floret (IRD/CORAF; Dakar, Senegal), Marcos da Silva Graça (Brazil), Sonja v d Graaf (RDP Livestock Services; Zeist, Netherlands), Tino P Johansson (Dept of Geography, University of Helsinki; Helsinki, Finland), Robert Laying (School of Public Health, University of Michigan; currently with Save the Children/US; Iloilo City, Philippines), S Andrew Long (WILD project, Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism; Windhoek, Namibia); Hastings Maloya (Dept of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs; Blantyre, Malawi), Augustine Mutelekesha (Policy and Planning Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Lusaka, Zambia), Programme Sahel Burkinabé (GTZ; Dori, Burkina Faso), Projet Aménagement des Terroirs et Conservation des Ressources (GTZ; Kongoussi, Burkina Faso), Kit Vaughan (WILD project, Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism; Kunene, Namibia), and Susanne von Walter (Scandiaconsult Natura AB; Stockholm, Sweden).

[Ed. comment: The Register of Members is at <<http://www.cbnrm.net/members/register.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, including links, information about conferences, workshops, and publications, as well as documents for downloading, is added continually. 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 web pages), and (4) with the web site search engine. Material for posting should be submitted to <mail@cbnrm.net>.

Web site: Use statistics for December 2001. *Key statistics:* Visitors - 2,949; Page views - 17,078; Hits - 21,359; Bytes - 304.8 Mb.

Page views by selected client domains: Argentina (ar) - 4, Bhutan (bt) - 49, Botswana (bw) - 4, Burkina Faso (bf) - 1, Cambodia (kh) - 24, Fiji (fj) - 6, Greece (gr) - 2, Hungary (hu) - 4, India (in) - 5, Indonesia (id) - 3, Iran (ir) - 6, Jordan (jo) - 1, Malaysia (my) - 4, Mexico (mx) - 11, Morocco (ma) - 3, Nepal (np) - 1, Nicaragua (ni) - 2, Pakistan (pk) - 4, Philippines (ph) - 7, Poland (pl) - 3, Portugal (pt) - 2, Saudi Arabia (sa) - 3, South Africa (za) - 81, Spain (es) - 1, Taiwan (tw) - 3, Tanzania (tz) - 5, Thailand (th) - 4, Uruguay (uy) - 2, Zambia (zm) - 7, Zimbabwe (zw) - 7, Commercial (com) - 7390, Educational (edu) - 184, Government (gov) - 37, Network (net) - 2750, Non-profit organization (org) - 1375.

[Ed. comment: Explanations of the measures used are at <www.cbnrm.net/saupport/help.html> and in Newsletter no. 14 (October 2001). Detailed statistics are at <www.cbnrm.net/support/stats.html>.]

Web site: Use statistics for January 2002. *Key statistics:* Visitors - 2,917; Page views - 12,746; Hits - 15,800; Bytes - 366.9 Mb.

Page views by selected client domains: Argentina (ar) - 9, Burkina Faso (bf) - 2, Brazil (br) - 2, Bhutan (bt) - 8, Botswana (bw) - 14, Cambodia (kh) - 20, Chile (cl) - 3, Colombia (co) - 1, Côte d'Ivoire (ci) - 2, Croatia (hr) - 2, Dominican Republic (do) - 2, Greece (gr) - 13, Hungary (hu) - 21, Indonesia (id) - 5, India (in) - 28, Jordan (jo) - 6, Mexico (mx) - 8, Malaysia (my) - 5, Namibia (na) - 3, Nigeria (ng) - 2, Nepal (np) - 14, Peru (pe) - 1, Philippines (ph) - 19, Pakistan (pk) - 8, Portugal (pt) - 7, Romania (ro) - 15, Saudi Arabia (sa) - 3, Slovenia (si) - 3, Senegal (sn) - 97, Thailand (th) - 15, Trinidad and Tobago (tt) - 8, Taiwan (tw) - 7, Tanzania (tz) - 5, Uganda (ug) - 5, Samoa (ws) - 3, South Africa (za) - 86, Zambia (zm) - 13, Zimbabwe (zw) - 18, Commercial (com) - 7908, Educational (edu) - 274, Government (gov) - 2, Network (net) - 1644, Non-profit organization (org) - 309.

[Ed. comment: Explanations of the measures used are at <<http://www.cbnrm.net/support/help.html>> and in Newsletter no/ 14 (October 2001). Detailed statistics are at <www.cbnrm.net/support/stats.html>.]

Register of Members. It is evident from the web site access log files that a growing number among you are accessing the Register of Members (both the most recent as well as older versions). It is time to update the Register, and this will be done very soon, see the URL below.]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/members/register.html>

Archive of old CBNRM Net web site pages. Old versions of HTML pages on the *CBNRM Net* web site are continually being archived by the Internet Archive.

[Ed. comment: For details see section 'Tools'.]

Focus 1: Recherche sur la Dina / Looking for the Dina

Recherche sur la Dina, le «code» de Cheikou Amadou du Macina de 1821. Valoriser le savoir des ancêtres – L'histoire du Macina peut servir d'exemple, elle décrit une communauté bien organisée, bien réglée sur la base de valeurs partagées par tous – et ainsi fait apprécier – non «aux blancs» mais aux populations et élites locales qu'elles n'ont qu'à puiser dans leur propre histoire pour trouver aujourd'hui les solutions à leurs problèmes – au lieu d'attendre le salut de l'Ouest – ou de l'Est – pour l'organisation de «la cité». La Dina, c'était, au 19^{ème} siècle, l'empire des Peuls du Macina (dans le delta intérieur du Niger). Bien sûr ils n'étaient pas pour autant parfaits: l'empire fut conquis par les armes, et les Bambara restaient des ennemis féroces. Le point que je veux faire ici est qu'il ne faut pas ignorer l'histoire si on veut bâtir l'avenir, et exécuter des projets «à caractère durable».

Le fondateur de l'empire, Cheikou Amadou, a organisé l'espace de son peuple – et de ceux qu'il a conquis et convertis à l'Islam – d'une façon étonnamment similaire, en partie, à celle des révolutionnaires français quelques années avant lui: en cantons, régions, présidés par des chefs, et suivant un code réglant tous les aspects de la vie, interprété par des juges. Cette organisation était l'idée d'un homme, mais élaborée, confirmée par l'approbation de tous les «sages» de la communauté. Aussi l'indication 'roi' dans mon appel (CPRNet Newsletter no 5 de mars 1999) était-elle une grave erreur: L'empire était dirigé par le grand conseil des 40 sages – Cheikou Amadou n'était que son «éminence grise», un conseiller parmi d'autres.

Le code lui-même reposait évidemment sur le Coran mais il incorporait l'essentiel de la coutume de la place – recherchée et expliquée pendant trois mois par 60 sages – et condensée en règles simples certes, mais compréhensibles et appréciées de tous. Voilà un modèle pour légiférer! L'élaboration des codes pastoraux d'aujourd'hui, dits «modernes» suit le même parcours – mais vu que la réglementation de Cheikou Amadou est toujours respectée par les pasteurs de la région (le calendrier de la transhumance, Jean Pagot, L'élevage en pays tropicaux, Paris 1985, p 446 *sequitur*, engl. ed.) – pourquoi faut-il chercher ailleurs si les solutions se trouvent déjà au pays, au Mali?

Les projets des bailleurs reposent sur la science de «ceux venant d'ailleurs»: sans comprendre l'histoire de la population peuvent-ils réussir? Il ne s'agit pas de ressusciter les anciennes coutumes telles quelles étaient, bien sûr, au contraire, il s'agit d'opérer un changement en connaissance de cause, conscient, graduel, basé sur des facteurs culturels et endogènes compris par les participants. C'est cela la théorie sus-jacente de l'initiative «Technology Fosters Tradition» (TFT) initiative conjointement proposée par la GtZ et la Banque mondiale à l'Est de la Mauritanie (voir *CBNRM Net* Newsletter no 15 du novembre 2001). Mais cette approche ne se limite pas aux ressources naturelles, c'est la seule façon de pouvoir régler «la cité» – l'état même, la décentralisation – le comportement de l'homme ne peut pas être divisé en <secteurs>.

Ce code, appelé la Dina, comme l'empire lui-même (qui fut ensuite conquis par El Hadj Omar en 1862) reste introuvable, pour un blanc, aujourd'hui. On prétend même qu'il n'existait pas par écrit – ce dont je doute fortement. Son contenu est connu, mais si on possédait le code on pourrait réformer le fond de la législation du Sahel. Pourquoi?

Parce qu'on pourrait s'attaquer à la racine du non-respect des «lois des blancs» que les parlements des pays du Sahel votent: leur forme, leur contenu ne sont pas adaptés à leur clientèle qui est la population, ces lois sont d'ailleurs méconnues d'elle, donc incomprises. Peut-on bâtir un Etat sur des lois virtuelles, de facto inexistantes? Et pourtant: il n'y a aucun projet qui ne commence à réclamer «une réglementation adéquate»; il n'y a aucun colloque dans lequel les participants ne réclament de jouer un rôle plus actif dans la préparation des lois.

Qui donc peut m'aider à trouver un sage qui connaisse une des familles du clan de Cheikou Amadou possédant peut-être une copie de la Dina, le code?

Voici un des exemples, montrant pourquoi Cheikou Amadou était un sage, lui qui voulait que le respect de Dieu soit toujours associé à l'amour d'autrui et contenu dans la connaissance de «la condition humaine»:

«Un jeune homme, récemment converti à l'Islam et ayant déménagé à Hamdoullahi (la capitale de la Dina), était tellement impressionné par le sermon de Cheikou Amadou qu'il vint se confier à lui: «Cheikou Amadou, j'ai commis cette nuit l'adultère. Je viens me dénoncer pour subir le châtement de la loi. Je préfère subir la peine ici-bas et avoir mon salut éternel assuré». Cheikou Amadou lui répondit: «Tu as mal agi en succombant à la tentation, mais tu as bien fait de venir toi-même demander l'application de la loi pour sauver ton âme. Va, demain tu te présenteras à la salle du grand conseil pour renouveler ta courageuse démarche». Cette dernière proposition fit peur au jeune homme et il se confia à un ami. «Tu es sot» dit celui, «tu sais bien que la punition est la mort, tu as commis un suicide inutile et pousse ta famille et ta bien-aimée dans la misère inutilement. Tu sais bien qu'il faut quatre hommes des quatre coins du monde comme témoins pour condamner un adultère, et ici tu t'infliges l'ultime peine toi-même». «Quoi faire» demanda alors le jeune homme, désespéré devant la réalisation subite des conséquences désastreuses de son acte. Et il vint chercher conseil auprès de Bouréma Khalilou, un sage bien connu à Hamdoullahi. «Pauvre enfant» dit-il – et il lui prêta conseil.

Le lendemain le jeune homme se présenta au grand conseil mais il ne dit rien. Alors Cheikou Amadou lui demanda pourquoi il ne répétait pas sa demande? «Serviteur de Dieu» s'écria-t-il, puisque tu n'as pas l'air de vouloir renouveler la déclaration que tu m'as faite hier, mon devoir me commande de te citer devant les marabouts comme ayant commis l'adultère selon ton propre témoignage». «En effet, Cheikou» répondit le jeune homme, «je suis venu te chercher pour m'accuser de l'adultère, mais c'est une métaphore que j'ai employée. Je considère la misère comme la femme d'autrui. Or, ruiné, je couche chaque nuit avec elle». Cheikou Amadou sourit alors doucement et dit aux marabouts: «je demande qu'un secours en argent soit accordé à cet homme pour le sortir de la misère». Puis, s'adressant à l'intéressé: «Si tu as l'occasion de voir Bouréma Khalilou, dis-lui de ma part que le Prophète de Dieu a fait passer la charité avant le devoir au moins dix fois dans sa vie».

(Résumé d'après Amadou Hampaté Ba et Jacques Daget: L'empire peul du Macina (1818-1853) première édition 1955, imprimé à plusieurs reprises, pages 64 & 65.)

C'est là aussi la raison pour laquelle le système d'équité fut développé en droit anglais au 12^{ème} siècle, quand le «common law» était considéré inéquitable – selon l'adage «summum jus, summa injuria».

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Looking for the Dina. The Dina is the legal code of Cheikou Amadou, founder of the empire of the Fulbe in Macina in the 19th century. The Fulbe Empire is also called “Dina”, which means “the state of God”, and was located in present-day Mali, in the inner delta of the Niger.

What can the short-lived Fulbe Empire teach us? It can return trust – not to us, but to the local population and its elites – to find solutions for current problems in their own past, and not in the prescriptions of the West or the East. The state of the Dina was a theocracy but was remarkably well organized on a secular model strikingly imitating France's revolutionary design at the same time. The territory was divided in small administrative units, a common code governed the land, and centrally appointed judges sat at trials, reporting regularly to Cheikh Amadou in Hamdoullahi, the capital.

The legal system, though respectful of the Coran, of course, embodied local custom, even varied according to region. It was drafted based on an extensive survey of each village's traditions – also with an eye on how to tax the wealth, embodied in livestock. It was decided following lengthy consultative procedures, and agreed upon by the ruling group of 40 elders. Cheikou Amadou did not govern as ‘king’, as I incorrectly wrote in an earlier comment (CPRNet Newsletter no 5, March 1999), but as one, albeit dominant, peer among this group, selected by him. It did not only regulate natural resource use – though this is the most spectacular aspect and still followed today by the letter (see Calendar of the transhumance, Jean Pagot, Animal Production in the Tropics, Paris 1985, p 446 *sequitur*), but life in general. Why then should Mali not look into its past for inspiration, rather than to imported solutions?

The Empire of the Dina was conquered by El Hadj Omar, another Muslim, in 1862, who left the area after 30 years of strife, a traumatic event still not forgotten. But the administrative system, the building on common values (some traditional customs were tolerated among the newly converted) and the general exhibition of common sense merits efforts to emulate it. The idea is not to resuscitate tradition, but to understand and value its roots, and implement a common gradual change towards well defined goals – such as equality of women. This is also the underlying approach of a joint GTZ-World Bank initiative in Mauritania: Technology Fosters Tradition (TFT), which the last Newsletter reported on (*CBNRM Net* Newsletter no 15, November 2001).

The code was the backbone of the state. Whether it ever existed in writing, however, is curiously left a mystery, as no one has seen a copy of it – or at least no one has told an outsider about it. But for several reasons I am convinced that it was written down. If a page only were found, this would greatly benefit the legislations of all Sahelian countries. How? By showing policy managers and lawmakers how to draft in language and content in order that the addressees, the population, will understand and respect the legislation. In many cultures the form is as important as the content, notably in oral cultures. Being able to show original legislation would immediately inspire. It would be a powerful tool to end “les texts des blancs” – “the white man’s laws” – which are laws drafted by local experts and voted by national legislatures today, but are not respected because of their alien form and content.

If anyone has knowledge about the law of the Dina, or knows of a descendant of Cheikou Amadou who might still treasure a copy, I would be extremely appreciative of learning about it.

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Focus 2: Danish aid freeze to sway Malawi’s environment management

The decision by Denmark to pull out its financial assistance from Malawi will not only affect the already dwindling economy of the poor southern African state of 10 million people. It will also halt government’s and non-governmental efforts in community-based natural resources and environmental management. The Royal Danish Embassy in the Malawi capital, Lilongwe, has said Copenhagen’s decision to withdraw all its development aid to Malawi with immediate effect has been prompted by Malawi’s corruption and political intolerance.

In a strongly worded statement issued on 31 January 2002, the Danish Charge D’Affaires Finn Skadkaer Pedersen said “a weak administration” in Malawi since 1995 has made it difficult to implement development programmes. Mr. Pedersen said corruption and misuse of Danish and other donor money has become a “markedly increased issue”.

“On this background, the Danish government has decided no longer to include Malawi in its list of programme countries and to phase out DANIDA’s support to development and environment programmes in Malawi,” Mr. Pedersen said. “This means no new Danish development or environmental programmes or projects will be initiated in Malawi.”

Denmark, through its Danish International Development Agency (Danida), has been one of the major donors to Malawi. Malawian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), including environmental and good governance projects, get a chunk of its operating funds from Denmark.

Under Danida’s Environment Support Programme, the Danish government has been instrumental in funding environmental projects. One such project was the Lake Chilwa Wetland Project that facilitated CBNRM in and around Lake Chilwa, Malawi’s only registered wetland under the Ramsar Convention. It also funded micro-projects in community-based natural resources programs in 12 of the country’s 27 districts. Danida was due to embark on a five-year Phase TWO of the programme this July in which implementation of the environmental action plans were the target.

Apart from funding these projects within the Environment programme, Danida was also funding the Bilharzia Control in Lakeshore communities of Mangochi district. The programme started in 1998 as a pilot project and it has registered big successes in reduction of prevalence of bilharzia in Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa. Plans were underway to expand the project to another 11 districts along the lake during Phase TWO, which was due to start in July.

This time not to focus on Bilharzia control alone but all environmental health problems like malaria, cholera, and others.

It also funded the Renewable Energy Project that has been working in six of the 12 districts to pilot alternative energy sources such as solar, windmills, and biogas in order to check deforestation. Another one was the Urban Environmental Project, which has similar objectives as Lake Chilwa but focus on the urban situation. The project is being implemented in some town assemblies within the Danida supported 12 districts.

Danida also provided support to the Natural Resources College, the country's only environment college, with a view of reviving the college in order to make it autonomous and self-sustaining. The idea is that the college should contribute by training Malawians in courses related to environment.

Danida has been responsible for training of community and district structures in environmental issues. District Assemblies, Area Development Committees, Village Development Committees have been trained on how they can compile State of Environment Reports (SOER) and use them to make Environmental Action Plans (EAPs). Communities in all districts can use funds from Danida to implement micro projects outlined in their EAPs.

Mr. Ralph Kabwaza, the Director of the Environmental Affairs Department, which relies heavily on funding from Danida, hoped that the Danes would reverse the decision. He observed that it was so much that Danida was putting in and its absence will not help matters at all. "It is my sincere hope that there will be negotiations between the two governments and that this issue has to be revisited and the decision reversed," he said.

Apart from Environment, Danida was also active in other support programmes such as Education and Agriculture. The Malawi Government is yet to officially comment on the withdrawal of the Danish aid but already hundreds of jobs are on the line.

Mr. Ted Nandolo, executive director of Council for Non-Governmental Organisations – an umbrella group for NGOs in Malawi – says Malawi NGOs, most of who gets funding from Danida, will suffer.

Denmark's move comes just a week after Malawi's President Bakili Muluzi lashed out at donors, accusing them of meddling in African politics by using their aid money to influence political trends on the continent.

"We are poor, yes, but we are a sovereign state and nobody should teach me how to run this country," he told Malawians at a recent public rally.

Relations between Denmark and Malawi soured late last year when Copenhagen was forced to recall its outspoken Danish ambassador to the country, Orla Bakdal, after an audit report he instituted on how Danish money was being spent, revealed some anomalies.

[Ed. comment: Danida decided to cut its assistance late last year. This story was written 3 February. The Malawi government has since issued a press statement denying the accusations of corruption as serious enough to warrant any aid cut. The author lives in Malawi. He is a member of *CBNRM Net* (see presentation in section 'Networking' below).]

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Networking

CBNRM Net at the IASCP 2002 conference. As reported in Newsletter no 15 (November 2001), a proposal for a panel on networking on NRM was submitted to the organizers of this year's conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 17-21 June 2002). This proposal has now been accepted and it is in order to present it in more detail (French and English versions of the panel and paper abstracts are available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below).

The panel is titled "Transcending barriers: The role of networks in natural resource management" / «Transcender les barrières: le rôle des réseaux dans la gestion des ressources naturelles». An excerpt from the panel abstract:

"The panel addresses networks and specific networking initiatives related to NRM. Based on selected case studies, the panel will illuminate the increasing emphasis on networking between stakeholders on various societal levels, from project and sector to the global level. It aims at shedding

light on how they operate, including the constraints and incentives they operate under, and in this way contribute to understanding their present role and impact. The panel aims to initiate a debate on the future role and impact of networks in NRM.”

«Ce Panel s’adresse aux réseaux et spécifiquement les initiatives liées à la diffusion de la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (GRN). Basé sur des études de cas sélectionnés, le tableau illuminera l’accent croissant sur la diffusion entre les intervenants à la base à divers intervenants au niveau de la société, des projets et secteur au niveau global. Il vise à répandre la lumière sur leur manière d’opérer y compris les restrictions et motivations sous lesquelles ils travaillent, et de cette façon contribuer à la compréhension du rôle actuel et l’impact. Le tableau vise à initier un débat sur le rôle et l’impact future sur les réseaux dans la GRN.»

The panel will address these issues through four selected case studies of important networking activities that are currently being implemented. They are: (1) IASCP-West Africa, (2) the CBNRM Support Programme in Botswana, (3) the CASS/PLAAS CBNRM Network and the Africa Resources Community Outreach Programme in Southern Africa, and (4) *CBNRM Net*. The abstract of the latter paper will be of special interest to the members of *CBNRM Net*:

“CBNRM as a separate focus of inquiry and practice is growing fast. Its attraction would appear to lie in its marrying of – and dialectic between – theory and practice, and its focus on locating itself in the political-economical and social-cultural contexts within which the constraints – as well as incentives – to optimal and sustainable community-based NRM is located. It is this long-term and realistic approach that has led to CBNRM being accepted as a realistic approach and model for local-level change mechanisms.

CBNRM Net is, at one and the same time, a corollary of these developments and is, in turn, contributing to furthering this agenda. The paper briefly spells out the history of *CBNRM Net*, before addressing its rationale and mode of operation. *CBNRM Net* was established to address expressed needs to develop and manage adequate networking capabilities, as voiced by members of the global CBNRM community of practice. Given the characteristics of this community of practice, the only feasible way of creating and maintaining such a networking capability was through use of the Internet, and a CBNRM portal web site was established. At the same time, reliance on the Internet alone would have been limiting, and a Newsletter is a key element in the overall networking and communication strategy. The rationale for *CBNRM Net*’s operation is built upon a few key principles: (1) Management and sharing of CBNRM knowledge, (2) Use and production of CBNRM knowledge, and (3) A decentralized management structure. *CBNRM Net* is currently in a pilot phase. There is a special focus on Africa.

The exposition is divided in two: (1) *CBNRM Net* as a network with a local agenda, and (2) *CBNRM Net* as a network of networks. The former is exemplified by *CBNRM Net*’s evolving agenda in Francophone and Anglophone West Africa. A major factor preventing networking across borders, sectors and issues are the existence of two languages and the corollaries of this. *CBNRM Net* is, in collaboration with other initiatives both in the sub-region and elsewhere, working to address this.

Second, a major problem is that the networks are defined – strategically and operationally – within specific geographic, thematic or other contexts. This creates barriers to the kind and amount of communication and networking that is possible. *CBNRM Net* aims to address these problems by linking these networks and, in effect, becoming a network of networks.“

«Le CBNRM en tant que point focal séparé de l’enquête et une pratique est en croissance rapide. Son attraction semblerait liée à son mariage de (et la dialectique entre) la théorie et la pratique, et son point focal sur la localisation, elle-même dans les contextes politico-économiques, et socio-culturels dans lesquels les contraintes (aussi bien que les motivations) pour une gestion des ressources naturelles optimales et durable communautaire de base sont localisés. C’est cette approche à long terme et réaliste qui a conduit le CBNRM à être accepté comme une approche réaliste et un modèle pour les mécanismes de changement au niveau local.

Le *CBNRM Net* est, à la fois, un corollaire de ces changements et est entrain de contribuer à faire avancer cet agenda. Le papier raconte brièvement l’historique du *CBNRM Net*, avant d’aborder sa logique et le mode d’opération. Le *CBNRM Net* fut créé pour examiner les besoins exprimés pour développer et gérer les capacités adéquates des diffusions, comme exprimés par les membres de la pratique communautaire globale du CBNRM. Etant donné les caractéristiques de cette pratique communautaire, la seule façon possible de créer et maintenir une telle capacité de diffusion était à travers l’usage de l’Internet et un site Web CBNRM fut installé. En même temps, la confiance à l’Internet seule serait insuffisante, et un bulletin est un élément clé dans l’ensemble de la stratégie de diffusion et de communication. La logique pour l’opération du *CBNRM Net* se fonde sur quelques

principes clés: (1) la gestion et le partage des connaissances CBNRM, (2) l'usage et la production des connaissances CBNRM, (3) et une structure de gestion décentralisée. Le *CBNRM Net* est présentement à la phase pilote. Il y a un point focal en Afrique.

L'exposition est divisée en deux: (1) Le *CBNRM Net* comme un réseau avec agenda local, (2) le *CBNRM Net* comme un réseau des réseaux. Le premier est illustré par le développement de l'agenda du *CBNRM Net* en Afrique de l'Ouest Francophone et Anglophone. Un facteur majeur empêchant la diffusion au delà des frontières, secteurs et des émissions sont l'existence de deux langues, et le corollaire que cela engendre. Le *CBNRM Net* est en collaboration avec d'autres initiatives à la fois sous-régionales et d'ailleurs, travaillant pour examiner cela.

Deuxièmement, un problème majeur est que les réseaux sont définis (stratégiquement et opérationnellement) au sein des contextes géographiques, thématiques spécifiques et autres. Cela crée des barrières entre la quantité de communication et de diffusion possible. Le *CBNRM Net* vise à examiner ces problèmes en reliant ces réseaux et en devenant le réseau des réseaux ».

[Ed. comment: The panel was presented in *CBNRM Net* Newsletter no 15 (November 2001). As the author of the paper on *CBNRM Net*, I may ask you for some help in filling out a small questionnaire.]

URL (conference web site): <http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/2002.html>

URL (NRM and networking panel): http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/special/iascp2002_panel_2.html

Email: lars@cbnrm.net

Member presentation: Hastings Maloya, Malawi. My name is Hastings Maloya, and I am writing from Malawi. I am a journalist and a development worker.

I have worked as a news reporter and editor for both the print and electronic media before getting seriously into community-based development and now in natural resources management. I am currently working as Communication Specialist for Capacity Development for the Environment Project under the Department of Environment Affairs, which falls in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. For the past two years I worked as Community Liaison Officer for the Lake Chilwa Wetland Project. The project was facilitating CBNRM activities in areas around Lake Chilwa, Malawi's only registered wetland under the Ramsar Convention. Among several activities, my job was to liaise with communities and organisations working in various areas, including fisheries, forestry, water, soil conservation, agriculture, and biodiversity. I was also responsible for all communication activities for the project.

My special interest has been CBNRM in connection with wetlands management. However I am joining *CBNRM Net* in my own personal capacity.

[Ed. comment: Hastings Maloya has contributed a piece on allegations of corruption and implications for Danish assistance to CBNRM activities in Malawi, see section 'Focus 2' above.]

Email: hes_maloya@malawi.net

Betterment legislation. Derick A Fay, PhD candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology, Boston University, would appreciate receiving information about the following:

"Does anyone know, or know of an accessible source on, the current status of betterment legislation in South Africa and/or dates of repeal thereof? It is clear that de facto enforcement has been abandoned since the early 1990s (in the coastal Transkei, at least, where the relevant legislation would be the Transkei Agricultural Development Act of 1966). Presumably the various permutations of betterment legislation have been repealed since the state has offered restitution in the case of Chatha in the E Cape."

Email: dfay@bu.edu

The RECOFTC E-letter. The RECOFTC E-letter no 2002.1 (3 January 2002), which is published by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific, reprinted the Focus "Global economy and local CBNRM" which appeared in *CBNRM Net* Newsletter no 15, November 2000.

[Ed. comment: This is an interesting example of a form of communication and sharing that is growing between key stakeholders in the global NRM community of practice. This is a form of communication, networking and sharing that it would be interesting to analyze in more depth.]

URL (RECOFTC): <http://www.recoftc.org/>

URL (RECOFTC Newsletter): http://www.recoftc.org/publications_recof_letter.html

Distributive justice and water resources. Upendra Gautam, Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust (FMIST) in Kathmandu, Nepal, sent the following email (excerpts):

“You will find attached our paper on distributive justice and water resources. We would like to circulate it through *CBNRM Net* and get feedback and comments from the respectable *CBNRM Net* members. You can post it on the *CBNRM Net* any way you like it to post. We have prepared this paper for the first South Asia Water Forum. We hope the paper will evolve and improve much after we receive the feedback and comments from the *CBNRM Net* members and the Forum. The Forum is scheduled to take place in Kathmandu, 26-28 February, 2002. The Forum will be organized by GWP/Nepal Water Partnership (NWP), and Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha (JVS), host institution of NWP. I am affiliated with these organizing institutions/network as President of CMS, a consulting firm, which is an institutional member of GWP/NWP and JVS.”

[Ed. comment: The paper is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see also section ‘Literature’.]

Upendra Gautam – Email: cmsug@cms.wlink.com.np

Gender, globalization, and land tenure: Call for papers. The Gender Unit at the International Development Research Center (IDRC) is launching a research competition on the theme “Gender, globalization and land tenure”. The competition is to support cutting-edge research that will contribute to knowledge gaps on the role of gender in natural resource management, and will improve IDRC’s programming in this area.

IDRC defines gender as one of several important social categories, that is also crosscut by axes of difference, including age/lifecycle position, marital status, ethnicity, race, religion, class, and caste. IDRC supports gender that explores the relational dynamics between men and women, as well as amongst different categories of women and amongst different categories of men. Gender is, furthermore, understood to be shaped by political, economic, social, and cultural relations and contexts.

[Ed. comment: Up to 8 grants, for projects of 18 months to 2 years duration, will be awarded. The value of each grant is 50,000 - 100,000 CAD. The deadline for applying is 29 March 2002. The Call for Proposals can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/members/funding/>
Email: pgolah@idrc.ca

Training and capacity building

Isang Bagsak: Email conference. At the 2nd International Workshop on CBNRM (Giyang, China, 16-20 October 2000), participatory communication was identified as one important crosscutting dimension of CBNRM research, as well as a pressing issue for capacity building. Isang Bagsak, conceived as a learning and networking program in participatory development communication, is a response to this, based in research teams in Cambodia, Uganda and Vietnam. There is a focus on research and the role of researchers, as witnessed by the objectives of the Program.

Isang Bagsak has five main objectives: (1) improve researchers’ capacities in communicating with local communities and other stakeholders; (2) enable researchers to plan a participatory development communication component in the context of their NRM research, (3) improve researchers’ capacities in making research results available and utilizable by end-users, (4) facilitate learning between and among researchers through the exchange of experiences and ideas, and (5) build a mechanism for CBNRM researchers and practitioners to share learning experiences and material.

Isang Bagsak initiated an E-forum in November 2001 that, in the course of the following year, will work to realize these objectives. The discussion is organized in five phases: (1) Introducing participatory development communication, (2) communication and the planning of participatory research, (3) communication during implementation and monitoring of participatory research, (4) communication and the sharing of knowledge, and (5) evaluation of the pilot program and recommendations.

[Ed. comment: Within an overall context of CBNRM, ICT, and networking, it is particularly interesting that Isang Bagsak aims to bring together researchers in South-east Asia and East Africa. I have been invited to follow the E-forum, and to join a small group of development specialists that will peer-review the forum. In understanding with Isang Bagsak I hope it will be possible to present preliminary experiences from the unfolding discussion in future Newsletters.]

URLs: <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/> | <http://www.isangbagsak.org/>
Saik Yoon Chin – Email: chin@south.pc.my

Conferences, seminars and workshops

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

Caribbean: Marine protected areas. At the 54th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (CGFI) (Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, 12-17 November 2001), a special symposium on “Caribbean marine protected areas: Practical approaches to achieve economic and conservation goals” was organized. In connection with this symposium a workshop was convened to address the topic of “Human system connectivity: A need for MPA management effectiveness”.

[Ed. comment: Under the headings of “Positive MPA experiences”, “Negative MPA experiences” and “Gaps to be addressed” this workshop report lists a number of experiences and ideas that will be of interest to marine and aquatic CBNRM activities elsewhere. The report can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below. See also story on CaMMP in section ‘Activities and interventions’.]

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

South Asia Water Forum. Will take place in Kathmandu, Nepal, 26-28 February 2002.

[Ed. comment: See story in section ‘Networking’ and a paper in section ‘Literature’.]

South Asia: South Asia Sustainable Livelihoods (SASL) Policy Forum. Will take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 22-24 March 2002.

The South Asia Sustainable Livelihoods is an informal network of individuals from countries in South Asia who come together periodically to discuss issues related to policy making in relation to sustainable livelihoods and natural resources management in the countries of South Asia, in order to share and learn from each other’s experiences. The form was set up in 2000 and held its first meet in Delhi, India in October 2000. The second meeting was held in March 2001 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

[Ed. comment: A presentation of SASL and a preliminary program can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>
Saleemul Hug – Email: saleemul.hug@iied.org

Rangeland management. The System-wide Program for Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI) sponsored an international conference on “Policy and institutional options for the management of rangelands in dry areas in Hammamet, Tunisia, 7-11 May 2000. The conference focused on institutional aspects of rangeland management and brought together policy makers and researchers from North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and West Asia to discuss sustainable rangeland production strategies and livelihood of pastoral communities in dry areas.

This conference summary paper contains summaries of the CAPRI sponsored research findings on institutional options for rangeland, policy makers’ interventions and reactions as well as the synthesis of discussion groups. These working groups evaluated outcomes of policies and institutions guiding rangeland management in terms of their impact on livelihoods and environmental sustainability, and explored alternative policies and institutional strategies in light of their capacity to reduce poverty and enhance food security.

[Ed. comment: For a piece about this conference is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, and a link to the conference summary paper, see URLs below.)]

URLs: <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>; <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp23.asp>

Indigenous peoples and forestry. An international conference, “Global perspectives on indigenous peoples forestry: Linking communities, commerce and conservation”, to be arranged in Vancouver, British Columbia, 4-6 June 2002.

Organized by: The University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Forestry, Forest Trends, the UBC First Nations House of Learning, Isaak Forest Resources, Ecotrust Canada, the National Aboriginal Forestry Association and the Native American Forestry Program of Northern Arizona University.

[Ed. comment: A preliminary agenda and additional information is available, see URL below. The web site is available in English and Spanish.]

URL: <http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/globalperspectives/index.htm>

Activities and interventions

Caribbean: Coastal and marine management program. The Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) established the Coastal and Marine Management Program (CaMMP) in March 2001.

The background for this initiative is the following: The people of the wider Caribbean region are facing a crisis. Coastal communities are finding livelihoods and food supply threatened due to resource overexploitation, declining environmental health, habitat degradation, and increased conflict among various users. The countries of the Caribbean confront difficult problems in coastal and marine management. The need for new approaches is urgent. More holistic perspectives and co-management of coastal and marine resource linking officials, communities and NGOs are increasingly seen as solutions.

CaMMP works with fishers, resource managers, government officials, local groups and NGOs to improve food security and livelihoods for coastal communities in the Caribbean by improving the governance of fisheries and increasing public participation in planning and policy development.

CaMMP will implement a series of projects throughout the wider Caribbean region with the goals of providing technical assistance, research, institutional strengthening, capacity building and socio-economic development. While the focus remains on the human dimension of coastal and marine management, science and technology will factor heavily in decision-making and policy recommendations. CaMMP will also explore new relationships with local and regional NGOs, governments, academic and research institutions, fisher groups and other stakeholders with similar and/or complementary interests in coastal and marine management. This will strengthen networking within the Caribbean.

CaMMP has identified nine guiding principles to help shape and focus projects: (1) improve co-management and community-based management of fisheries and coastal areas, (2) enhance coordination and capacity building for sustainable stakeholders organizations, (3) support governance and institutional arrangements for marine protected areas and adjacent areas, (4) encourage appropriate technology for resource user participation in sustainable management, (5) provide information and perspectives on marine policy and multilateral environmental agreements, (6) facilitate stakeholders involvement in regional or sub-regional fisheries conservation, management and planning processes, (7) enrich livelihoods in coastal communities through enhanced economic opportunities and other linkages, (8) assess coastal and marine resources and the economic activities that utilize them, and (9) conserve biodiversity and habitats that sustain and add to the quality of life in coastal communities.

Although not formally connected, a report from a recent workshop sheds some light on the emerging experiences with one part of the CaMMP programme (see the 54th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Turks and Caicos Islands, 12-17 November 2001, in section 'Conferences, seminars and workshops').

[Ed. comment: CaMMP is presented on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below. A brochure on CaMMP and the report from the November meeting in Turks and Caicos Islands can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site (see bibliographic references in section 'Literature'). Patrick McConney, a CaMMP Senior Program Officer, is a member of *CBNRM Net* (see email below). See also story in section 'Conferences, seminars and workshops'.]

URL (CCA and CaMMP): <http://www.caribbeanconservation.org/>

URL (*CBNRM Net*): <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/projects/>
Patrick McConney – Email: patrick@caribsurf.com

Projects

Guinea: Wincrock NRM project. This project, Expanded Natural Resource Management (ENRM), is managed by Winrock International. Project area: Forestry/NRM. Project length: 1999-2004. Funding: USAID.

Objective: Assist farmers and community groups in investing in more profitable, less destructive agricultural practices by improving natural resource management capacity, increasing sustainable farm production and productivity, and developing income-generating, non-farm small enterprises.

Why Winrock is involved: Guinean small landholders, who account for 96 percent of the rural population, have increasingly relied on extensive subsistence farming and environmentally inappropriate cropping patterns to satisfy their food needs. More marginal lands are being farmed and more fragile woodlands are converted to agriculture by slash-and-burn practices. Investment in natural resource conservation is very low. Without improving the management of Guinea's natural resource base, agricultural production and growth cannot be sustained.

Project activities: Winrock works with communities to empower local decision-making for agriculture marketing and production, improved natural resources management practices, and non-farm income producing activities. By providing information and new skills, project participants can make informed decisions to sustain and protect their livelihood and resource base. Winrock supports this approach with: extension and training materials, simplified land use agreements and forest co-management plans, and small enterprise development. The project is also creating institutional strengthening models targeting the Guinean Forest Service, community-based organizations, and local nongovernmental organizations.

Accomplishments: (1) 30 land use agreements established between landowners and land-users, (2) 1,655 hectares of agricultural land under cultivation employing sustainable agriculture techniques, (3) 48 community-based natural resource management plans prepared, (4) 2,278 producers have invested in sustainable, environmentally-sound production techniques that increase productivity, (5) 12,900 small loans granted in the project zone, and (6) 3 community forests managed by formally recognized cooperatives.

[Ed. comment: The information is taken from Winrock's web site, see URL below. Julie E Fischer, a CBNRM Net member, works on this project, see email below.]

URL: <http://www.winrock.org/>
Email: jfischer@sotelgui.net.gn

Namibia: The WILD project. The Wildlife Integration for Livelihood Diversification (WILD) project was initiated to generate and share information and policy recommendations with communities to enable them to integrate wildlife use with other land uses in ways most likely to improve sustainable rural livelihoods.

Project duration: September 2000 - September 2003. *Lead institution:* Directorate of Environmental Affairs. *Funding:* Dept. of International Development (DFID), UK Government.

Background: Recent legislation in Namibia has encouraged communities to diversify land use and livelihoods through the management and utilization of natural resources and wildlife. This has been achieved through the development of communal area conservancies. Evidence indicates that such utilization can reduce vulnerability to drought, boost cash incomes and enhance community management of a range of "common pool" natural resources. While wildlife is likely to form the basis of the resource base in many instances, it forms only a part of the wider spectrum of common pool resources that can be used by communities as they develop their natural resource management capacity through the conservancy process. Significant progress towards the successful wider adoption of conservancies is, however, constrained by a lack of information on how to make the best use of these new opportunities. The WILD Project aims to support CBNRM and assist with the process of conservancy formation by specifically addressing two key questions: (1) How can communities integrate new opportunities for wildlife utilization with other uses of land and other natural resources, to improve rural livelihoods? (2) How can policies better support communities' opportunities to develop wildlife uses and enhance livelihoods?

The project is Namibian conceived and owned, and meets an identified need to improve rural livelihoods and thus reduce poverty in the communal areas. Project implementation is being shaped by the inputs of key CBNRM stakeholders within Namibia, principally through the CBNRM Association of Namibia.

Objectives: Priorities for research and dissemination will focus on the following key issues:

- How can policies better support communities' opportunities to develop wildlife uses and enhance livelihoods? The socio-economic and broader livelihood impacts of wildlife utilization,

- The economics of wildlife integration (cost-benefit analysis), and the extent to which the management and utilization of wildlife can meet national objectives (i.e. diversifying rural livelihood, reducing poverty),
- Institutional implications of improvements in natural resource management through CBNRM/conservancy formation,
- Impact of internal (e.g. demographic, and existing institutional capacity) and external factors (political and economic factors, e.g. devaluation, conflict),
- Developing a strategy to widely disseminate findings and directly inform the development of CBNRM, and
- To input into the process of policy development and implementation.

Achievements to date: A considerable amount of work went into the first phase of the project, which revisited the above objectives and conducted a consultation to assess the information needs of partners involved in the Namibian CBNRM programme. While the above objectives remain important to CBNRM in Namibia the following have also been raised as significant, and will be specifically addressed by WILD:

- (1) There is a clear need for a livelihoods focused approach to CBNRM intervention,
- (2) There is also a need for a participatory learning and action (PLA) approach to enable communities to make clear decisions about their CBNRM and livelihood diversification options, and
- (3) There is a need for clear and simple extension methodologies that are PLA focused and can be used by CBNRM support organisations with communities to make the conservancy programme more participatory.

Other achievements relate specifically to implementation strategies and dissemination.

[Ed. comment: The information is taken from the project web site, see URL below. Two *CBNRM Net* members, Kit Vaughan and Andrew Long (see email below) work on this project. See also story on the WILD project online natural resource reference collection in section 'Tools'.]

URL: <http://www.dea.met.gov.na/>
Andrew Long – Email: salong@dea.met.gov.na

Research

Legal pluralism and dynamic property rights. Conventional conceptions of property rights focus on static definitions of property rights, usually as defined in statutory law. However, in practice there is co-existence and interaction between multiple legal orders such as state, customary, religious, project, and local laws, all of which provide bases for claiming property rights. Legal anthropological approaches that recognize this legal pluralism are helpful in understanding this complexity. Individuals may choose one or another of these legal frameworks as the basis for their claims on a resource, in a process referred to as “forum shopping.” Legal pluralism can create uncertainty especially in times of conflict because any individual is unlikely to have knowledge of all types of law that might be relevant, and because rival claimants can use a large repertoire to lay claim to a resource. However, at the same time the multiple legal frameworks facilitate considerable flexibility for people to maneuver in their use of natural resources. Legal pluralism also introduces a sense of dynamism in property rights, as the different legal frameworks do not exist in isolation, but influence each other, and can change over time. Unless these aspects of property rights are recognized, changes in statutory law intended to increase tenure security may instead increase uncertainty, especially for groups with less education and contacts.

[Ed. comment: A paper on this research by R Meinzen-Dick and R Pradhan presents these arguments, and illustrates the implications of legal pluralism for our understanding of NRM and policies toward resource tenure, using the example of water rights. For bibliographic reference see section 'Literature'. It can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site.]

Institutional approaches to studying forest resources. Some places have dense populations and strong economic incentives to destroy forests yet somehow protect them. Meanwhile, forests are vanishing fast in other areas with much less population pressure and weaker market forces

driving forest loss. The strength of the public and private institutions that manage the forests largely explains these apparently contradictory outcomes.

Simply saying that, however, does not help much unless we can figure out how to promote strong institutions. Elinor Ostrom and colleagues at the Center for Institutions, Population and Environmental Change at Indiana University, USA, have contributed to understanding why effective institutions emerge at the local level. “An Institutional Approach to the Study of Forest Resources” prepared by Amy Poteete and Elinor Ostrom for the Center for International Forestry Research adds new insights based partly on recent studies in Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Uganda, and USA.

Poteete and Ostrom focus on situations where government agencies lack the capacity to regulate the use of threatened forests and ask under what circumstances we can expect local community groups to do so. They find that this is more likely where:

- Government agencies do not undermine local efforts to monitor forest use, sanction abuses, and resolve conflicts,
- Local groups perceive forests as important and that the benefits from protecting them outweigh the costs. (In some cases it may be possible to change these perceptions by providing additional insights or information. In other cases it may actually not be in local people’s interest to try to regulate forest use.),
- The groups have previous organizational experience and share a common understanding of what is happening in the forest. The forests are small enough to easily monitor, and
- The political system empowers groups within communities that favor sustainable forest management, rather than those that have strong vested interests in unsustainable activities.

Sometimes it helps to have smaller and more homogeneous groups. At other times large groups involving various types of people work better.

Giving communities greater control over their forest resources does not guarantee they will use them wisely. Nonetheless in many instances local groups do manage forests sustainably.

[Ed. comment: For bibliographic reference see section ‘Literature’. The paper can be down-loaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site.]

Amy Poteete – Email: apoteete@indiana.edu
Elinor Ostrom – Email: ostrom@indiana.edu

Tools

On-line archive of old *CBNRM Net* web site pages. The Internet Archive is a public nonprofit that was founded to build an “Internet library” with the purpose of offering permanent access for researchers, historians, and scholars to historical collections that exist in digital format. The Archive was founded in 1996 and is located in San Francisco, USA. The rationale for doing this is the need to preserve digital data. Libraries exist to preserve society’s cultural artifacts and to provide access to them. If libraries are to continue to foster education and scholarship in this era of digital technology, it is essential for them to extend those functions into the digital world.

All pages on *CBNRM Net* are continually being updated or revised. The update frequency ranges from each week to every few months, depending on the nature and content of the page. The Internet Archive has been archiving old pages from the *CBNRM Net* web site since January 2001. The *CBNRM Net* web site is crawled every few months, and all HTML pages that have changed since the previous crawl are archived. Given that many *CBNRM Net* pages are revised more often than this, the archived pages will not necessarily reflect all versions of a page. By now there are a few thousand versions of old retired pages and old versions of existing pages.

[Ed. comment: This documentation of the continually changing nature of the *CBNRM Net* web site is an important resource for understanding the evolving and changing nature of CBNRM.]

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

Système d’Information et de Suivi de l’Environnement sur Internet / Environmental Information System on the Internet. Capacity Building Programme on Integrated Management of Data and Information to Implement Multilateral Environmental Treaties.

[Ed. comment: A French version is available.]

URL: <http://www.sisei.net/>

Observatory for Sahar and Sahel (OSS) – Emails: boc@oss.org.tn; wafa.essahli@oss.org.tn

POLEX: The Forest Policy Experts electronic list serve. This is a free service of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Its objective is to keep key opinion leaders in the area of forestry policy informed about recent relevant policy research results by CIFOR and others. The list forms part of CIFOR's program on the "causes of deforestation, forest degradation, and changes in human welfare in forested areas". The list serv is available in Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, and Spanish. A searchable database is available.

URL: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/polex/index.htm>
Ambar Liano – Email: a.liano@cgiar.org

Namibia, WILD project: natural resource reference collection. The WILD project has collated a natural resource reference collection amounting to 284 documents. Linked to this is a bibliography consisting of 318 documents available elsewhere. The collection relates specifically to research conducted in Namibia's communal areas on those natural resources most critical to people's livelihoods.

[Ed. comment: In order to search these two databases the software EndNote has to be installed. See also story on the WILD project in section 'Projects'.]

URL: <http://www.dea.met.gov.na/programmes/Wild/wild.htm>
Email: salong@dea.met.gov.na

Literature

[This section includes key CBNRM-related literature, both new and old, published and gray. 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.]

Africa Resources Trust. Einführung in die Bewirtschaftung Natürlicher Ressourcen im Südlichen Afrika. Eine Serie aus 12 Informationsblättern (in deutscher Sprache).

[Ed. comment: Die Info-Mappe entstand im Rahmen des internationalen Projekts 'Campfire'. Das Projekt beschäftigt sich mit dem Ansatz des CBNRM. Ziel dabei ist es, der Zivilgesellschaft die Verwaltung und Nutzung der natürlichen Ressourcen ihrer Gemeinden zu übertragen. Die Mappe bietet Informationen zu Artenvielfalt, Wildtierzucht, Naturschutzpolitik und vielem anderen mehr. Die 24-seitige Info-Mappe kann zum Preis von Euro 3,50 auch in gedruckter Form bestellt werden. Available in German only.]

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Email: claudia.bonk@oneworld

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[Ed. comment: See abstract in section 'Conferences, seminars and workshops'.]

URL: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp23.asp>

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