

CBNRM Net

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network

CBNRM Net Newsletter

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From the editor

This issue includes, among others, the following: a Focus on CBNRM terminology, and new publications (many of which can be downloaded from the CBNRM Net web site). Several important news and information could unfortunately not be included in this edition, and will be included in the next issue.

Further information on several topics in this issue is available on the CBNRM Net 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 made available on the web site, write to <mail@cbnrm.net> and request that it be sent via email.

The next issue will come in August. Submit information early to ensure that it will be included!

Lars T. Soeftestad

Membership and organizational issues

New members. (A) *Individual members*: Kiran Bhattarai (International Water Management Institute; Anand, Gujarat, India), Srinivas Chokkakula (Environmental Planning Collaborative; Ahmedabad, India), Dirham Dirhamsyah (Cooperation Division, Indonesian Institute of Sciences; Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia), Robert E. Ford Jr. (Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, Office of Natural Resources Management, Land Resource Management Team, USAID; Washington D.C., United States), Thomas Jacobsen (Project Seahorse; Cebu City, Philippines), Presley Y. Kokwaiye (Faculty of Marine Environment, Australian Maritime College; Beaconsfield, Tasmania, Australia), Andrew J. Newsham (Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh; Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom), Katie Norton (Information Unit, Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex; Brighton, United Kingdom), Nickson Ochieng Orwa (Resource Conflict Institute; Nakuru, Kenya), Daniel Pouakouyou (GY Associates; Harpenden, Herts, United Kingdom), Silke Reichrath (Community-Based Natural Resource Management, International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Ottawa, Canada), Dominique Rojat (Département développement rural, environnement et ressources naturelles (TEN), Agence Française de Développement (AFD); Paris, France), Rekha N. Singhal (Indian Institute of Forest Management; Bophal, India), Catherine Zulu (Research, National Assembly; Lusaka, Zambia [presently at ITC in The Netherlands for studies])

(B) *Institutional members*: Sand County Foundation; Madison, Wisconsin, United States (contact person: Kevin McAlesee, Program Director), Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations; Windhoek, Namibia (contact person: Ebben Simon, Assistant Co-ordinator, Information, Networking & Media)

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

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Nominating new members. Members of *CBNRM Net* are encouraged to nominate new members. Send the name and email address of the nominee to <mail@cbnrm.net>.

Mailing list and changes in email addresses. Write to <mail@cbnrm.net> to inform about changes in email address and other contact information. This will ensure that there is no delay or interruption in receiving the Newsletter.

Web site: New material. Several documents on African affairs, covering biodiversity issues, parks management, etc. The search engine Htdig has been installed and configured for searching the *CBNRM Net* web site. The existing search engine is retained for specialized searches, including for searching CBNRM resources on the WWW. New terms and acronyms are added.

[Ed. comment: New material, including links, information about conferences, workshops, and publications, and documents for downloading, is added continually. New material can be located in various ways: (1) in the Newsletters, (2) on the 'News' page, (3) the date for last update (located at the bottom of all web pages), and (4) with the web site search engine. Material should be sent to <mail@cbnrm.net>.]

Web site: Recent visitors. Among the recent visitors are the following organisations, public sector agencies, and NGOs: Acadia University (USA), Agder University College (Norway), Berner Fachhochschule (Switzerland), École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland), Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (Finland), Finnish Forest Research Institute (Finland), International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (Netherlands), Johns Hopkins University (USA), International Development Research Center (Canada), Leiden University (the Netherlands), Lund University (Sweden), Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey (USA), UniForum Association (South Africa), Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille (France), University of Alberta (Canada), University of Botswana (Botswana), University of Georgia (USA), University of Hawaii (USA), University of Maryland (USA), U.S. Coast Guard (USA), Wageningen University and Research Centre (the Netherlands), and the World Bank.

[Ed. comment: The list includes select organizations that have visited the web site recently. Several visitors do not leave URLs and cannot be included for this reason. ISPs, search engines, and portals are not included.]

Web site: Section 'Members'. Access to this section is restricted to members of *CBNRM Net*. Write to <mail@cbnrm.net> to request access.

Web site: Use statistics. The key statistics include visitors, page views, hits, and bytes per month. Visitors and page views by selected client domains per month are also available.

[Ed. comment: The statistics are at <www.cbnrm.net/support/stats.html>. Explanations of the measures used are at <www.cbnrm.net/support/help.html>.]

Global Information Access Net (GIANT). GIANT is an initiative of the University Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, funded by Ford Foundation. The International Affairs Contact Network, one of the two GIANT projects, is a directory of international affairs organizations worldwide. *CBNRM Net* is now featured on the GIANT International Affairs Contact Network. One potentially interesting aspect of this is GIANT's aim to function as a go-between between people needing speakers for specific topics and experts in its various member organizations. For this purpose, *CBNRM Net* is presented as a speaker's bureau constituting its 500+ members, as located in and/or working in almost 100 countries, and representing specialists and expertise in a large number of fields.

[Ed. comment: In order for *CBNRM Net* to function also as a speaker's bureau, it is vital to have relevant and updated information on members, as located in the *CBNRM Net* Membership Form. To access the *CBNRM Net* on the GIANT International Affairs Contact Network, go to the URL, select 'The International Affairs Contact Network', and search for 'cbnrm'.]

URL: <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/giant/>
Email: info@creativecommons.org

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knowledge to the global CBNRM community of practice. *CBNRM Net* is collaborating with Creative Commons on licensing its work

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URL: <http://creativecommons.org/>

CBNRM Net Newsletter: ISSN. The *CBNRM Net* Newsletter series has been assigned an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). The ISSN number is: 1503-6251.

[Ed. comment: The newsletter archive are at <www.cbnrm.net/library/newsletters/index.html>.]

Global: World Congress on Protected Areas. “World Congress on Protected Areas” (WPC), Durban, South Africa, 8-17 September 2003. Organized by IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

This conference, together with the new IUCN inter-commission group TILCEPA, was presented in *CBNRM Net* Newsletter no. 20 (February 2003). As argued in that Newsletter, there are several key overlaps between the agenda of the WPC and that of CBNRM, including indigenous peoples, protected area management, participation, policy reforms, local level institutions, and, above all, the interest in marrying the two twin goals of local natural resource management and sustainable development. Thus, it is clear that the biodiversity agenda has much to contribute to developing CBNRM, just as CBNRM’s approaches and experiences can benefit the biodiversity agenda.

I know that several among you will participate in the Durban conference, and I am planning to attend myself. It would be useful to learn just how many will attend, and with what tasks and agendas.

[Ed. comment: Contacts Anick De Siebenthal, Ashish Kothai and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend.]

URL: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/>

Emails: ads@iucn.org | ashish@nda.vsnl.net.in | gbf@cenesta.org

Focus: Terminology, devspeak, and communication

Let’s start with a joke; we can call it a globalization joke:

Last month, the UN conducted a worldwide survey. The only question asked was: “Please give your honest opinion about solutions to the water shortage in the rest of the world”. The survey was a huge failure....

In South America, they did not know what ‘please’ meant. In Eastern Europe, they did not know what ‘honest’ meant. In China, they did not know what ‘opinion’ meant. In the Middle East, they did not know what ‘solution’ meant. In Africa, they did not know what ‘water’ meant. In Western Europe, they did not know what ‘shortage’ meant. And in the USA, they did not now what ‘the rest of the world’ meant.

Like all jokes, it caricatures and overstates issues. It makes us laugh at the “others” and, as is to be expected, the “others” laugh at us. Jokes, including globalization jokes, address basic values, and further introspection and self-assessment.

At the core of this particular joke is the fact that values differ across cultures, but also that terms have different meanings depending upon the context. At the same time terms are necessary in order to ensure understanding, all the more so when communication is taking place across boundaries created by, among others, languages, environmental features,

political/administrative systems, and cultures. The users have to be absolutely sure that the recipients understand the terms used, and accordingly the meaning that is communicated, in the same way as it was sent. This is a condition for advancing knowledge.

In the case of CBNRM we are talking about a process and a practice, interacting with a global and accumulating knowledge base. This practice is based on both traditional and scientific knowledge and results, as found within traditional cultures and the natural and social sciences. This is not the place to delve into what CBNRM is or is not (the *CBNRM Net* web site, at <www.cbnrm.net>, contains extensive material and documentation). However, as CBNRM grows in applicability, across regions and countries as well as in the number of sectors and issues to which it is being applied, it increasingly becomes important to communicate advances, experiences and results to other practitioners and stakeholders. This is part of the *raison d'être* for and fundamental premise of *CBNRM Net*. Not only do we – the members of the global CBNRM community of practice – want to learn from the experiences, failures and advances of others, but we also want to advance and consolidate this somewhat vague and amorphous thing that is CBNRM. Thus, terms that are applied and used within the area of CBNRM increasingly acquire importance.

There are not many such terms yet. There is what *CBNRM Net* refers to as core (CBNRM) terms, and then there are a whole host of terms that exist within other more or less overlapping approaches, geographic areas, intellectual traditions, methods, and tools. All of these are extensively covered and presented in *CBNRM Net's* knowledge management Category 'Terminology' <www.cbnrm.net/resources/terminology/>. The aim is not to cast terms in stone, but to report terms that are used, together with any efforts at delimiting and clarifying them. If a definite definition is provided, the purpose is not to imply that other terms are not correct. In some cases only one definition or usage has been located, in others the definition/delimitation provided represents an effort to consolidate various uses as found in the literature. Above all, the purpose of *CBNRM Net's* focus on terms and terminology is to contribute to establishing a more or less uniform and accepted set of often used terms, together with their more-or-less accepted or understood meaning. Over time, we will see a set of terms emerging with a clearer and more delimited content, as well as the interrelations between them. In this way we will collectively contribute to defining and consolidating the analytical and developmental practice of CBNRM.

Working in this new and evolving area of CBNRM implies efforts, on the part of the members of this community of practice, at terminological experimentation. Such efforts are understood as visible signs of a vibrant and alive community of practice experimenting and thus moving the field forward. At the same time such efforts are, at least in some cases, and for a variety of reasons, likely to be less fertile and productive.

I will illustrate the latter with reference to the term "Community-based natural resource conflict management" (CBNRCM) that recently was proposed. This term comes out of work done by FAO, specifically its Forest Policy and Institutions Branch (FONP), and is used in the volume "Natural resource conflict management case studies: An analysis of power, participation and protected areas" (Ed. by A. Peter Castro and Erik Nielsen, FAO, 2003; the volume is listed in section 'Literature'). At the outset I would like to state that, first, I am discussing this particular case of terminological experimentation from the point of view of CBNRM as an emerging field of inquiry and practice, and my key question is whether and how this term contributes to evolving this field. Second, I am in no way addressing the data, arguments, analysis and conclusions in the paper in this volume where the term is used.

First, a brief background: In collaboration with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC) in Bangkok, FONP developed a "Community-based forest resource conflict management training package". In further developments, FONAP focused on developing case studies that addressed processes, strategies and tools employed by various stakeholders in addressing conflicts in natural resource management. In this connection the linguistic construct "natural resource conflict management and resolution" appears to have been formulated. In the above mentioned volume this appears to have been drawn to its natural conclusion, in that a formal term, "Community-based natural resource conflict management", abbreviated CBNRCM, was introduced in one of the papers.

The paper in question, “Community-based natural resource conflict management: the case of watershed planning in Metro Cebu, the Philippines”, by Jim Hafner, Mary Schlarb and Liberty Pinili (pp. 19-38), is a case study of Cebu Uniting for Sustainable Water Foundation (CUSW), a civil society coalition. The paper states that it is concerned with an exploration of the “community-based natural resource conflict management (CBNRCM) strategies” (p. 21) that CUSW uses. The strategies are presented as consisting of coalition-building and land-use planning together with a number of themes, as follows:

... CBNRCM combines two thrusts: coalition-building and land-use planning. [The] experience to date highlights several themes: (1) the facilitating role in convening stakeholders and mediating conflicts, (2) effective stakeholder participation in collaborative processes, and (3) the challenges of implementing inclusive resource planning on a large scale. (p. 21)

The paper refers to CBNRCM as a clear-cut and existing strategy, which is applied and adapted to the needs of CUSW:

The empowerment goals and participatory tools developed within the Philippines’ community development field are consistent with existing CBNRCM approaches. Therefore, as key members of CUSW learned of CBNRCM principles and tools, the organization integrated them into coalition building and water resources planning. (p. 28)

CUSW is a politically influential coalition. However, its efforts have not yet resolved the major water-related resource conflicts in Metro Cebu. The CUSW approach to CBNRCM remains challenged by traditional and emerging social divisions defined by class, wealth, language and economic alliances, which block access to formulating policy agendas and objectives. (p. 31)

The consequences of the CUSW planning strategy and its use of stakeholder participation, in particular, highlight the potential dangers of translating general principles and “best practices” of CBNRCM into specific practices. (p. 37)

However, developing “best local practices” for conflict management requires a reassessment of the relevance of many assumptions behind specific, often widely accepted CBNRCM practices. Local conflict management efforts can never strictly conform to external models of conflict management and political organizing. Their norms and principles are best used critically to inspire local CBNRCM efforts. (p. 37)

This is as close as the paper comes to present the content of the term CBNRCM. The key to understanding the term may lie in the connection between coalition building and land-use planning, and that this, taken together, amounts to addressing conflicts and conflict management. However, a definition, not to mention an explanation, is not provided.

The troubling question here is that the key analytical and operational term CBNRCM, which is described as widely used in the Philippines, is not explained or defined, and is also not assessed. The reader is, in so many words, told that the term, and the process it refers to, exists in the Philippines and is alive and well, without any further detail and references provided. Having done this, and as a next step, the authors go on to argue that CUSW subscribes to and follows this strategy, and also adapts it to its own needs.

CBNRM is not easy to define. Indeed, *CBNRM Net* argues that it may not be possible and indeed futile to try and arrive at a definition. Given this situation, what does CBNRCM mean? Is it an application of CBNRM to a specific issue, or is it something else altogether? Clearly, to include land use planning in CBNRM – and, by extension, CBNRCM – is anybody’s prerogative. Maybe the difference between CBNRM and CBNRCM lies in this emphasis on land use planning, and in the reference to scaling-up? Coalition building certainly is an important aspect of the process of implementing any CBNRM approach to managing local natural resources. All in all, it is less than clear what this term covers and what sets it apart from CBNRM. More importantly, does this new term accomplish anything new? Does it advance our understanding of what CBNRM is, in its comparative, cross-cultural and cross-sectorial emphasis? I fail to see that it does. Tried and well-known constructions like, for example, “conflicts and/in CBNRM” or “conflict management in natural resource management” would seem to cover the issues concerned.

The scientific and philosophical rule “Occam’s Razor” would seem to apply. That is, analysis and explanation of phenomena should be sought first in terms of known quantities. Applied to the use of terminology, new terms should be based upon known terms.

Truth be told, this is not a unique example. In fact, the whole development business abounds with terms and abbreviations. Often the meaning of an abbreviation is not even mentioned. Bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, including the UN and the World Bank Group, are

masters at this. Given the clout of these agencies, as new terms and their abbreviations are put forward they are fast worked into the official vocabulary. Invoking George Orwell, the huge, specialized and growing vocabulary in the development sector (where abbreviations are constructed, promoted and marketed together with the new term itself), deserves being characterized as “devspeak”. Two key abbreviations that are hot in today’s “devspeak” are “Community-Driven Development (CDD)” and “Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)”, while, for example, “Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA)” is a potential runner-up (see the *CBNRM Net* web site, at <www.cbnrm.net/resources/terminology/>, for details and further terms). A few years back these terms did not exist.

The term CBNRCM is probably to some extent a result of the devspeak prone business that we all are part of. It is likely also an example of the tendency to understand data from specific localities as being unique, and therefore worthy of special treatment and labelling. As CBNRM practitioners, if we are interested in cross-cutting approaches, and in enabling and facilitating comparison across the many borders and differences that exist, should we not give emphasis to using terms that make such comparison possible?

My own view on new terms is that they should be assessed in terms of what they contribute to the analytical endeavour, in terms of explaining events at the local level. Somebody with detailed knowledge of the issues and the locality that the above paper addresses will have to answer that. There is, however, another scale by which new terms can be assessed, namely the extent to which they contribute to advancing general insight and knowledge, partly through enabling comparison. As far as this is concerned, I am not sure that this particular term represents an advance. What role does analytical terms play in the search for knowledge, insight and truth, as in the case of CBNRM? What criteria should we have for new terms in the area of CBNRM? Do we need general terms that are applicable across cultures and sectors, or do we need very specific terms coined for specific situations and tasks? Or is the answer somewhere in between?

If CBNRM is to develop as a field of concern, as a body of knowledge, practice and experience, supported by a body of theoretical concerns and positions and a set of methodological approaches, and, through this, support us in our individual work, it is necessary to develop a set of core terms that contribute towards this. Such terms must follow certain criteria, among them, they have to be: (i) based on data and facts, (ii) defined (or at least explained and delineated in relation to other terms), (iii) cross-culturally applicable, and (iv) analytically productive, and (v) practically useful.

I welcome a discussion on the arguments presented in this Focus, including from the authors of the paper as well as people working with CUSW. Such a discussion (to be included in future Newsletters) would, in addition to focusing on terminology, contribute to clarifying what CBNRM is and, by extension, address the issue of where CBNRM is (or should be) heading.

Following from *CBNRM Net*’s overall mission to address, connect and build the global CBNRM community of practice, the issue of terminology clearly is important. The term and abbreviation CBNRCM is used here to focus attention on the importance of terminology and to stimulate debate. In the manner in which the CBNRM community of practice operates, the development of terminology clearly is a democratic enterprise, where the individual members, constituting the collective of CBNRM practitioners and stakeholders, have the final say.

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Networking

Global: Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). In 2002 FAO launched a multi-agency, multi-stakeholder initiative to establish the basis for the global recognition, dynamic conservation and sustainable management of remarkable agricultural systems and landscapes, and their associated biodiversity and knowledge systems: The Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

This global FAO/UNDP-GEF/UNESCO initiative is intended to be implemented in 10 pilot agricultural heritage systems, with specific action programmes, in 10 countries building on

existing UN programmes for the in situ conservation and sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity, landscapes and knowledge systems. One of the challenges of this project is the possible creation of a new (sub-)category of World Heritage for Agricultural Heritage Systems.

Stakeholders (governments, NGOs, scientific institutions, indigenous peoples' organisations and others) are invited to nominate and submit proposals on candidate systems and provide any supplementary information on such outstanding agricultural systems.

Selection of pilot systems will take place on the basis of criteria that have been developed at the GIAHS stakeholder and Steering Committee meeting (Rome, August 2002). Site selection will also be subject to GEF eligibility criteria. The final selection of the 10 pilot systems will be done by the International Steering Committee of the programme.

[Ed. comment: See UNDP's application to GEF for this project, for the period February-April 2002 (listed in section 'Literature'). Cf. also the story on guidelines on indigenous knowledge in section 'Research'. *CBNRM Net* members that are interested in submitting proposals should contact *CBNRM Net*. The selection criteria, a format for systems proposals and further information are available from David Boerma, the GIAHS Focal Point. Proposals can be submitted until September 2003.]

URL: <http://www.fao.org/landandwater>
Email: david.boerma@fao.org

CBNRM research in Namibia and Argentina. Andrew J. Newsham, a PhD student at the Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh, wrote the following email:

"I am a PhD student with the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, looking at how people are – or are not – involved in processes governing natural resource management in Namibia and Argentina. I attach my proposal that you can refer to for more details, but my main objectives are:

- "To analyse and evaluate the dynamics, success levels and general state of community-based natural resource management in the Kunene Region of Namibia, both at the level of rhetoric and practice, through fieldwork focusing on initiatives occurring within established and emerging conservancies.
- "To investigate the extent to which ideas applied and experience gained from ecotourism and trophy hunting enterprises in Namibia are appropriate, relevant and potentially applicable in specific sites in the Northwest of Argentina.
- "To ground theories concerning common property resource management in very different empirical contexts, to see whether the sorts of principles the theory appears to offer, are as widely relevant and applicable as they are often held to be, by policymakers, academics and a variety of different groups in both countries.

"I have just come across your web page and would like to be placed on your mailing list, given that my research priorities appear to dovetail with what your network is attempting, laudably, to achieve.

"I wish you well with your work."

[Ed. comment: Andrew Newsham is a member of *CBNRM Net*. The PhD proposal is listed in section 'Literature', and is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site. Andy would appreciate getting in touch with people working on these issues.]

Email: A.J.Newsham@sms.ed.ac.uk

Activities and interventions

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

West Africa: Marine and coastal conservation. At a meeting on the Regional Programme for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Zones (RPCM) (12 June 2003, Dakar, Senegal), six West-African countries and fifty conservation, research and development organizations agreed to work together on marine and coastal conservation. Ten Ministers of Environment and Fisheries from Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal approved the new "Regional Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in West Africa", which will lead to a wide array of actions at a cost of EUR30 million over five years.

[Ed. comment: The communiqué from the meeting is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site.]

URL: <http://www.iucn.org/brao/eng>

Projects

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

Zimbabwe: SAFIRE's MITI programme. The NGO SAFIRE in 1997-98 tried to expand the concepts of SAFIRE to non-wildlife woodland resources. The SAFIRE MITI programme learnt from CAMPFIRE (which focuses on devolving management of natural resources – specifically wildlife, because of the high return – to local communities), importantly by creating ways for benefits to go directly to local people instead of collecting in the bank accounts of local government. The authors of a report on Managing Our Indigenous Tree Inheritance (MITI) identified the primary challenges to the new programme, which were applicable to CBNRM programmes in general.

[Ed. comment: The report on this project, available in English, French and Spanish, is listed in section 'Literature'. A memo by Gus Le Breton, that partly discusses the MITI program, is listed in section 'Literature', and can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site.]

China: Lashihai/Wenhai Community-Based Resource Management Pilot Project. Established by the Yunnan provincial government as a nature reserve, the forests between Lashihai, a lake in Lijiang County, and Wenhai, a smaller alpine lake beneath Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, this Nature Conservancy supported pilot project are home to Asiatic black bear and more than 15 rhododendron species. Lashihai provides habitat for the endangered black-necked crane and 56 other species of migratory birds. The two lakes also support six native, commercially valuable fish. The project includes three main components:

(1) *Ecotourism planning and project development.* Ecotourists will have the opportunity to view wildlife in the nature reserve, learn about the cultural traditions of the minority Naxi and Yi peoples, and trek through the upland areas on the slopes of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Local peoples will be trained in natural and cultural resource protection, interpretation, guiding, marketing and business planning.

(2) *Fisheries management.* A comprehensive fisheries management plan encompasses harvest limits, seasons, sites, methods, wildlife needs, pollution abatement, water-level management and marketing of fish with commercial value. Also under study are proposals for farming introduced fish species, and the potential for negative impacts on native fish and wildlife.

(3) *Household biogas/greenhouse demonstration.* Collection of fuel wood for wood-burning stoves is denuding forests in this area and cause severe erosion. Biogas technology, which uses clean-burning methane to power fuel-efficient cook stoves and light bulbs, can cut fuel-wood needs. Diet-enriching vegetables can be grown in greenhouses powered by biogas technology.

URL: <http://nature.org/wherewework/asiapacific/china/work/art5101.html>
Email: comments@tnc.org

Conferences, seminars and workshops

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

Bhutan, Regional workshop on CBNRM in the mountains. This workshop, organized by the Royal Government of Bhutan (Dept. of Research and Development Services), Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with ICIMOD, IDRC, SDC, SNV and GTZ, took place in Lobaysa, Bhutan, on 22-25 April 2003.

The workshop was organized in connection with the International Year of the Mountains. Focusing on the central Hindu Kush, it aimed to draw the attention of national governments in the region to issues of sustainable management of common resources. It provided an opportunity to discuss issues from the standpoint of increasing local participation based on strengthening local resource-use rights and community-based NRM regimes, especially as related to management common property natural resources. In order to broaden the sharing experience, selected CBNRM experts and experiences practitioners were invited from other mountain regions in Asia, including the Mekong highlands.

[Ed. comment: Introduction and Program available on the *CBNRM Net* web site. Contacts: Sangay Duba and Ganesh B. Chettri, Ministry of Agriculture. An evaluation of the course will hopefully be available.]

URL: <http://www.moa.gov.bt/newsy/cbnrm.asp>
Emails: sduba@druknet.bt | g_chettri@moa.gov.bt

Training and capacity building

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

Sri Lanka: Household economics and natural resource management. The South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) organized this training (Sri Lanka, 16-29 June 2003).

Farm households represent the dominant type of decision-making units in rural areas. Policies directed at rural development and natural resource management have to consider the behaviour of these rural households. By placing households at the center of policy analyses, decision-makers can focus on incentive structures. The course addressed issues such as: how can we model household decisions when households are producers and consumers of agricultural and resource products? How do households operate in situations of high population density, missing markets and resource degradation? How can policy makers create incentives for households to undertake sustainable actions given the limited number of available policy tools? The course combined lectures on theory and empirical papers with practical exercises.

[Ed. comment: The course agenda is available on the SANDEE web site.]

URL: <http://www.sandeeonline.org/>
Email: info@sandeeonline.org

Research

[See the *CBNRM Net* web site for further listings and details, including documents that can be downloaded, at [<http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/topics/issues/research.html>](http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/topics/issues/research.html). All documents reviewed or otherwise mentioned are listed in section 'Literature'. For project evaluations cf. section 'Projects'.]

Africa: Conservation and community conflict. The Jane Goodall Institute has prepared the following note on research in progress:

Throughout history, humans have had an intricate relationship with the biological diversity around them, one that embodies cultural identity, spirituality and provides resources for subsistence and socio-economic purposes. Individuals have competed for access and control of these diverse resources, with resulting conflicts occurring at many levels – from household to local, regional, societal and global scales. The intensity of conflicts has also varied enormously, from confusion and frustration among members of a community to violent clashes between groups over resource ownership, rights and responsibilities. Such conflicts can be heightened in conservation contexts by a history of policing and exclusion.

Faced with a diminishing resource base and increasing human population, conflicts between local people and conservation authorities have continued to escalate. The conservation community has identified the need to include conflict resolution in existing conservation initiatives, and develop a framework for implementation in new projects. Through this study, the Jane Goodall Institute will examine the need for reconciliation techniques and approaches that address deep-rooted conflicts in a more meaningful manner. This study seeks to not only create a framework, but also to provide pragmatic lessons, guidelines and tools for conservationists and affected communities in both Africa and in North America.

The conservation community has learned much about the need to involve communities in conservation projects as documented in projects such as CAMPFIRE, and collective studies including "Natural Connections" (Western, Wright and Strum 1994), "African Wildlife and Livelihoods" (Hulme and Murphree 2001) and the "Eden" series (Roe et al. 2000; IIED 1994). This knowledge bridges a chasm, but there still remains uncertainty as to how to meaningfully integrate local communities into conservation programs. Improving the recognition and valuation of changes and transitions within affected communities through reconciliation measures, may serve to not only rebuild the relationship between conservation and local people but also actively address significant root sources of conflict.

This study seeks to apply lessons from African conservation programs as a basis for modeling both domestic and international programs incorporating reconciliation techniques. Information is being collected and evaluated on established conservation projects that include community outreach techniques within their programmatic objectives.

Conservation issues of focus may include international crises such as the endangered great apes, the commercial bush meat trade, and the impact of civil conflict and refugees on the protection of natural resources.

Through an examination of the various stakeholders and key issues this study will highlight the apparent contradiction between local community survival based on disparate environments and wildlife protection.

The goal of this one-year study is to increase the capacity of the conservation sector and affected communities to address changes and conflicts resulting from the complex scenario of trying to conserve the same resources that communities rely upon for survival.

Through extensive research, the following projects were selected: AWF Tsavo Conservancy Trust (Kenya), Mount Cameroon Project / Mokoko Wildlife Management Authority (Cameroon), International Gorilla Conservation Program (Uganda), Okapi Faunal Reserve (DR Congo), Bambuti Pygmies of Eastern DRC - DFGFE / EcoAction (DR Congo), ADMADE (Zambia).

Application of these results will contribute to increased relevance and effectiveness of conservation projects to preserve biodiversity, cultural stability and sustainable livelihoods.

Early results indicate that conflicts between local communities and conservation authorities ensue over land rights and ownership, competition between livestock and wildlife for water, access to forest resources, the struggle over crop raiding by ecotourism species, misunderstandings about conservation project purpose and methods, and other mistaken assumptions. The basis for these conflicts is often economic but may also involve cultural/social identity and food or personal security. There are deep-rooted issues as well, including political history, foreign resource exploitation, and colonization.

Preliminary findings present a strong case for increasing attention to deep-rooted conflicts through use of reconciliation techniques and standardizing meaningful integration of communities' and conservation's agendas.

[Ed. comment: A meeting of the leaders of all projects took part in a workshop in Zambia in September 2002, to finalize lessons and guidelines. A publication is available, listed in section 'Literature'. Contact: Tammy Zborel.]

URL: <http://www.janegoodall.org/>
Email: tzborel@janegoodall.org

Madagascar: Fire management. A paper by Christian A. Kull discusses CBNRM as an approach to encourage equitable and sustainable environmental resource use.

Based on an analysis of the case of grassland and woodland burning in highland Madagascar, the paper argues that the success of CBNRM depends upon the real empowerment of local resource users and attention to legitimacy in local institutions. Two key factors – obstructive environmental ideologies (“received wisdoms”) and the complex political and social area of “community” governance – challenge empowerment and legitimacy and can transform outcomes. In Madagascar, persistent hesitancy among leaders over the legitimate role of fire has sidetracked a new CBNRM policy called GELOSE away from one of its original purposes – community fire management – towards other applications, such as community management of forest exploitation. In addition, complications with local governance frustrate implementation efforts. As a result, a century-long stalemate of fire continues.

[Ed. comment: Listed in section 'Literature'.]

Integrating indigenous knowledge in project planning and implementation. A set of guidelines on indigenous knowledge in project planning and implementation has been prepared. The guidelines were developed through a partnership with the International Labour Organization, the World Bank, KIVU Nature Inc and CIDA.

Interest in the issues and cultures of Indigenous Peoples of the world has grown exponentially in the last few years. Human rights conventions, multilateral agreements on the environment as well as domestic legislation and policy demonstrate that indigenous peoples' voices must have a place in the development agenda. Of particular interest in this regard are the

traditional knowledge systems and practices that indigenous peoples hold. This knowledge has sustained and nourished cultures for generations. Only recently have many stakeholders, such as the public, governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, fully realized that this knowledge has tremendous value for efforts related to sustainable development, medical research, governance and civil society. Indigenous cultures have always demonstrated a willingness to share their knowledge, but only if this is done in a respectful way. All too often though, governments and companies have engaged indigenous groups in ways that has done more harm than good, even if the original intent of collaboration was legitimate.

The guidelines are designed to assist governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and indigenous groups to work better with each other when traditional knowledge is central to the development objective. The guidelines are not meant to be prescriptive; rather they should be seen as a template from which various stakeholders can develop their own collaborative partnerships.

[Ed. comment: Listed in section 'Literature'. Cf. the GIAHS project presented in section 'Networking'.]

Bangladesh and the Mekong River: Community-based fisheries management. A method of consensus building for management of wetlands and fisheries using a systematic approach to participatory planning and initially developed in Bangladesh is presented in a paper by P. Sultana and P. Thompson.

The method is being applied in both Bangladesh and the Mekong delta. The method recognizes diversity in livelihoods and works through a structured learning and planning process that focuses on common interests. It works with each category of stakeholder separately to prioritize the natural resource problems that their livelihoods are largely dependent on, they then share and agree common priorities in plenary. Then the stakeholder groups separately analyze possible solutions and their impacts, before meeting in plenary to share their analysis and form a consensus on win-win solutions. The process identifies the collective actions that are needed to arrive at preferred solutions, and determines potential impacts on different stakeholders and responsibilities for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The process is outlined in the context of building social capital through consensus, and compares indicators of social capital as an outcome of its application in a Vietnamese village in the Mekong delta with the outcomes of a similar process in a floodplain wetland in Bangladesh.

[Ed. comment: Listed in section 'Literature'.]

Global: Land rights and poverty reduction. Festering land issues slow poverty reduction in many developing countries and sometimes lead to bloodshed. Yet a growing number of countries are addressing these issues in ways that benefit everybody. Approaches vary but providing poor people secure land tenure and easy land transactions are key. A new World Bank study, *Land policies for growth and poverty reduction*, shows that better land policies improve governance, empower women and other marginalized people, increase private investment, and speed growth and poverty reduction.

Land is a key component of the wealth of any nation. Throughout history, virtually all civilizations have spent considerable time defining land rights and establishing institutions to administer them. Well-defined, secure, and transferable rights to land are crucial to development efforts.

In developing countries, most land is used for agricultural production, a mainstay of economic sustenance. The possession of land rights also typically ensures a baseline of shelter and food supply and allows people to turn latent assets into live capital through entrepreneurial activity. Once secure in their land rights, rural households invest to increase productivity. Moreover, the use of land as a primary investment vehicle allows households to accumulate and transfer wealth between generations. The ability to use land rights as collateral for credit helps create a stronger investment climate and land rights are thus, at the level of the economy, a pre-condition for the emergence and operation of financial markets.

Property rights to land are one of the cornerstones for the functioning of modern economies. This book looks first at the historical, conceptual, and legal contexts of property rights to land. It then considers aspects of land transactions, including the key factors affecting the functioning of rural land markets. Finally, it explores the scope and role of governments and land policy

formation and discusses ways in which developing countries can establish land policy frameworks that maximize social benefit.

[Ed. comment: Listed in section 'Literature'.]

Global: Collective action. A paper "In pursuit of comparable concepts and data about collective action" has been published by CAPRI

Abstract: Research on collective action confronts two major obstacles. First, inconsistency in the conceptualization and operationalization of collective action, the key factors expected to affect collective action, and the outcomes of collective action hampers the accumulation of knowledge. Inconsistent terminology obscures consistent patterns. Second, the scarcity of comparable data thwarts evaluation of the relative importance of the many variables identified in the literature as likely to influence collective action. The International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) research program addresses both of these problems. Since its founding in 1993, the IFRI network of collaborating research centers has used a common set of methods and concepts to study forests, the people who use forest resources, and their institutions for resource management. The basic social unit of analysis in IFRI is the user group, defined as a set of individuals with the same rights and responsibilities to forest resources. This definition does not require formal organization or collective action, since these features are potential dependent variables. This strategy for data collection allows analysis of relationships between diverse forms of social heterogeneity and collective action within groups with comparable rights to resources. IFRI's relational database also captures the connections among forest systems, sets of resource users, particular forest products, formal and informal rules for resource use, and formal local and supra-local organizations. By the middle of 2001, the IFRI database included data on 141 sites with 231 forests, 233 user groups, 94 forest organizations, and 486 products in 12 countries. Drawing upon these data, IFRI researchers are contributing substantially to our understanding of collective action for institutional development, the mediating role institutions play relative to demographic and market pressures in patterns of resource use, and relationships between particular institutions and forest conditions. The paper describes IFRI's strategy for collecting comparable data based on consistent conceptualization and operationalization, summarizes the contributions of IFRI research to the study of collective action for natural resource management, and identifies continuing challenges.

[Ed. comment: Listed in section 'Literature'.]

Global: Institutions in development. The June 2003 online issue of the International Monetary Fund's journal *Finance and Development* includes a section on "Institutions in development". The section has five articles dealing with the importance of institutions in development. The articles summarize important research that challenges many of the underlying assumptions on which aid is based. They indirectly challenge much of the basis of current aid assessment.

The articles are: "Root causes: A historical approach to assessing the role of institutions in economic development" by Daron Acemoglu; "The Primacy of institutions (and what this does and does not mean)" by Dani Rodrik and Arvind Subramanian; "Testing the links: How strong are the links between institutional quality and economic performance?" by Hali Edison; "Institutions matter, but not for everything: The role of geography and resource endowments in development shouldn't be underestimated" by Jeffrey D. Sachs; and "Institutions needed for more than growth: By facilitating the management of environmental and social assets, institutions underpin sustainable development" by Christian Eigen-Zucchi, Gunnar S. Eskeland, and Zmarak Shalizi.

[Ed. comment: Listed in section 'Literature'.]

Tools

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

Southeast Asia: CBNRM practitioners directory. This is an activity under the programme Sharing and Promotion of Awareness and Regional Knowledge (SPARK), implemented by the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, in partnership with the following organisations: Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) in

Philippines, The Indonesia Tropical Institute (LATIN) in Indonesia, and Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) in Thailand. SPARK runs from 2000 until 2004.

The directory aims to contribute towards the increasing and sustaining learning and sharing of knowledge on CBNRM, which is one of the three objectives of the SPARK programme. The other two objectives are strengthening the capacity of local groups to implement CBNRM and helping improve CBNRM policy that is informed by practice on the ground. Its translatable content appears in English, Bahasa Indonesia and Thai.

The information contained in the directory comes from three sources: survey forms, other existing directories, and information obtained from the Internet and interviews with CBNRM practitioners. Information in the directory will be updated around August each year, and this updating will continue beyond the life of the SPARK programme. In the future the directory may be expanded to include other countries in Southeast Asia.

[Ed. comment: The directory is aimed at CBNRM practitioners.]

URL: <http://www.esscspark.org/>
Email: essc@admu.edu.ph

AiDA – Accessible Information on Development Activities. AiDA includes historical and current information on activities of the major international development donors and some civil society organizations and private foundations, and is a common entry point to information found in web sites of the organizations that are participating in this initiative. A continuing effort is underway to expand the coverage and ensure the timeliness and reliability of information.

[Ed. comment: A recent search for 'cbnrm' yielded 64 resources, almost all of which came from IDRC and covered Asia.]

URL: <http://www.developmentgateway/aida>
Email: info@developmentgateway.org

Terminology

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

Community-based forest management. Types of forest management in which environmentally sustainable use is assured while benefiting local communities.

[Ed. comment: The source is a World Rainforest Movement publication, see section 'Literature'.]

Literature

[This section includes relevant new and old literature, both published and gray. Literature submitted by members, in electronic form and hard copy, is routinely listed here. Some documents are reviewed or discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter. The literature in this section can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site, if not otherwise mentioned. See the *CBNRM Net* web site at <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/literature/> and <http://www.cbnrm.net/library/documents/>. Try also the site search engine, a link is available on all pages.]

Alcorn, Janis, Asukile Kajuni and Bob Winterbottom. 2002. "Assessment of CBNRM best practices in Tanzania. Final Report, 31 October 2002." Presented to USAID/Tanzania, USAID/Africa Bureau-Office of Sustainable Development.

Chemonics International Inc. nd. "Community-based natural resource management: Policy review and revision. Final report." Submitted to Dept. of Wildlife and National Parks, MCI, Government of Botswana, United States Agency for International Development, RCSA, BIOFOR Task Order 802. Submitted by Chemonics International Inc. Prepared by Mark D. Johnstad.

[Ed. comment: Available on the *CBNRM Net* web site (only front matter). URL: www.chemonics.com.]

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[Ed. comment: Reviewed, with emphasis on one of the articles, in section 'Focus: terminology, devspeak and communication' above. Emails: <ftpp@fao.org>, <fonp-documents@fao.org>.]
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[Ed. comment: The focus of the whole issue is on CBFM. English, French, Portuguese and Spanish language versions are available. Email: <wrm@wrm.org.uy>.]



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