

# CBNRM Net

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network

CBNRM Net Newsletter

ISSN 1503-6251

Number 23, December 2003

The CBNRM Net Newsletter is a continuation of the CPRNet Newsletter, which was published by the World Bank's Common Property Resource Management Network (CPRNet). Le bulletin d'information de CBNRM Net fait suite au bulletin de CPRNet publié par le «Common Property Resource Management Network» (CPRNet) de la Banque Mondiale.

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## From the editor

This issue includes, among others: CBNRM Net's mission statement, presentation of the new paper on CBNRM Net, a report from the WPC in Durban, CBNRM in Botswana, and lots and lots of literature! This issue is large, 29 pages, and is in fact the largest issue ever!

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

Lars T. Soefftestad

## Membership and organizational issues

**New members.** (A) *Individual members*: Olugbenga J. Ajayi (Zuri-Shaddai Farms Limited; Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria), Jelle Beekma (Afghanistan, Natural Resources Management, Aga Khan Development Network; Kabul, Afghanistan [presently Ph.D. Candidate; Jm Groet, The Netherlands]), Niklas J. Bergstrand (Department of Political Science, Lund University; Lund, Sweden), EarthwireUK ([www.earthwire.org/uk](http://www.earthwire.org/uk); England), Wolf D. Hartmann (Fisheries Programme, Mekong River Commission; Vientiane, Lao PDR), Jennifer L. Jones (Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Stellenbosch; Stellenbosch, South Africa), Tanja Kleibl (Project Implementation Unit - Community Program, Limpopo National Park; Maputo, Mozambique), Joseph A. Mintah (Management Information Systems, Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission; Accra, Ghana), Emeka G. Nzenwa (Production, Mouka Limited; Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria), Lorenz Petersen (Planning and Development / Environment and Infrastructure / Environment and Management of Natural Resources, GTZ; Eschborn, Germany), Daniela Diz P. Pinto (Núcleo Interdisciplinar de Meio Ambiente, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC/RJ); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Tara Shine (Galway Development Services International Ltd.; Galway, Ireland), Simon S. Smith (Environment Protection and Regulation, Department of Environment and Conservation, New South Wales; Armidale, New South Wales, Australia), and André L. Wamba (Inter-Réseaux Développement Rural; Paris, France & Douala, Cameroon).

(B) *Institutional members*: Association des Volontaires pour le Développement [AVD]; Conakry, République de Guinée (contact person: Mamadou S. Baldé, President); Centre de Recherches Concertées sur le Développement [LandNet-Togo]; Lomé, Togo (Contact person: Koffi O. Alinon), and Partners for Sustainable Development in Ethiopia [PSD-Ethiopia]; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (contact person: Mamo S. Hailu, Program Coordinator).

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

The CBNRM Net website and the CBNRM Net Newsletter is published by CBNRM Networking, a Norwegian non-profit. CBNRM Networking was registered in the Norwegian Company register in March 2000. The registration number is: 981 666 895. URL: [www.cbnrm.com](http://www.cbnrm.com)  
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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.

Paper review process. Two papers have been reviewed so far. I trust that the authors as well as the reviewers have benefited from this.

*CBNRM Net's mission.* *CBNRM Net's* mission is an evolving one, reflecting members' and users needs and the encompassing political, economic and social contexts. Nonetheless, some basic values and principles and goals can be ascertained. The following mission statement has been prepared (also available on the website, in Section 'About'):

*CBNRM Net* will:

- (1) Play a key role in implementing the recommendations in recent CBNRM workshops and conferences, including the World Bank May 1998 international CBNRM workshop,
- (2) Contribute to realize the potential inherent in civil society, participatory approaches, local social organization, culture and traditional knowledge in connection with managing local natural resources,
- (3) Provide a broad and unified network interface for the use of the global CBNRM community of practice (CoP),
- (4) Function as a gateway to, and clearinghouse for, all manner of CBNRM knowledge,
- (5) Be a virtual meeting place for the growing CBNRM CoP, thus making possible easy exchange of CBNRM knowledge, and through this support the increasing amount of practical work,
- (6) Produce new CBNRM knowledge, and thus move the CBNRM agenda and CoP forward,
- (7) Advocate the importance of training and capacity building in CBNRM. Specifically, contribute to determine the role of Internet in training and capacity building in CBNRM, in combination with select *CBNRM Net* networking tools.

Website: New material. The home page is now available in Portuguese, thanks to Daniela Diz Pinto Pereira (she has promised to translate further pages). A large amount of material has been added: including in Category 'Terminology (now almost 500 acronyms are listed, and several dictionaries of CBNRM-related terms and words are added (Akposso, English, French, Norwegian, Portuguese, Akposso – more terms and words, as well as languages, to come). A large number of new documents that can be downloaded are listed in Category 'Documents'.

[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 website search engine. Material should be sent to <mail@cbnrm.net>.]

Website: Hall of Fame. Hamish G. Rennie (Dept. of Geography, University of Waikato, New Zealand; and *CBNRM Net* member since September 1997) writes in an email dated 29 October 2003 (excerpts): "Actually this new found fame is of use – New Zealand has introduced a new Performance Based Research Funding (PBRF) system which covers universities. In three years time I have to provide an evidence portfolio ..., which includes evidence of my contribution to the international community of researchers. The listing on the Hall of Fame will form part of my evidence portfolio ...."

[Ed. comment: Hamish provided comments on the paper on *CBNRM Net* and environmental online communication that I recently co-authored with Prakash Kashwan (for details see elsewhere in this section). As is the rule, his contribution was acknowledged on *CBNRM Net's* 'Hall of Fame' on the website (URL below).]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/about/us/individuals.html>

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

Website: Use statistics. The months of September, October and November showed new records in numbers of visitor: 7836, 7877 and 7910 visitors per month, respectively! 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](http://www.cbnrm.net/support/stats.html)>. Explanations of the measures used are at <[www.cbnrm.net/support/help.html](http://www.cbnrm.net/support/help.html)>.]

### **Focus I: CBNRM Net and environmental online communication**

The Internet and wireless communication networks are transforming the way society handles the explosive growth and dwindling half-life of environmentally relevant information. How can we leverage new technologies to advocate sustainability and the protection of natural ecosystems? A new book, "Environmental online communication", ed. by Arno Scharl, presents an interdisciplinary investigation of this question, combining theoretical foundation of environmental online communication (EOC) with pioneering conceptual work and case studies of successful information systems.

*On the book.* The book addresses the transition to a knowledge-based economy, sheds light on hidden assumptions and misconceptions about environmental issues, and suggests priorities for research and policy development. It analyses communicative strategies and processes from four interrelated perspectives:

- Raising environmental awareness,
- Environmental science,
- Corporate sustainability, and
- Networks & virtual communities.

*On Networks & virtual communities.* The final part of the book pays attention to communicating, managing and applying knowledge within virtual communities, the roles trust and credibility play in these processes, and how networked information systems catalyze the emergence of virtual communities. Simultaneously arousing both hope and fear among observers, networks and virtual communities have been associated with conflicting claims about their impact on social interaction. On the one hand, online communication is seen as re-enchanting community (perceived as eroded in 'real life'), substituting territorially bound forms of human interaction by more selective patterns of social relations. On the other hand, online communication is accused of damaging community by encouraging domination, dogmatism, social isolation, and a withdrawal for the real world.

With the Internet diffusing into the mainstream of society, the dichotomy of these contested positions is becoming less pronounced. Independent of geographic proximity and institutional affiliation, networks and virtual communities emerge through processes of cooperation and social exchange. They depend on and benefit from a synergy of skills, resources and projects, the constitution and dynamic maintenance of shared knowledge, flexible and non-hierarchical modes of cooperation, and distributed decision-making.

Built on common interests, virtual communities often establish social bonds that extend beyond the narrow focus of those interests. People in networked societies live and work in overlapping relationships, typically cycling through interactions with multiple sets of others. Such social networks have always existed but new technologies have supported and enabled their emergence as a dominant form of social organization.

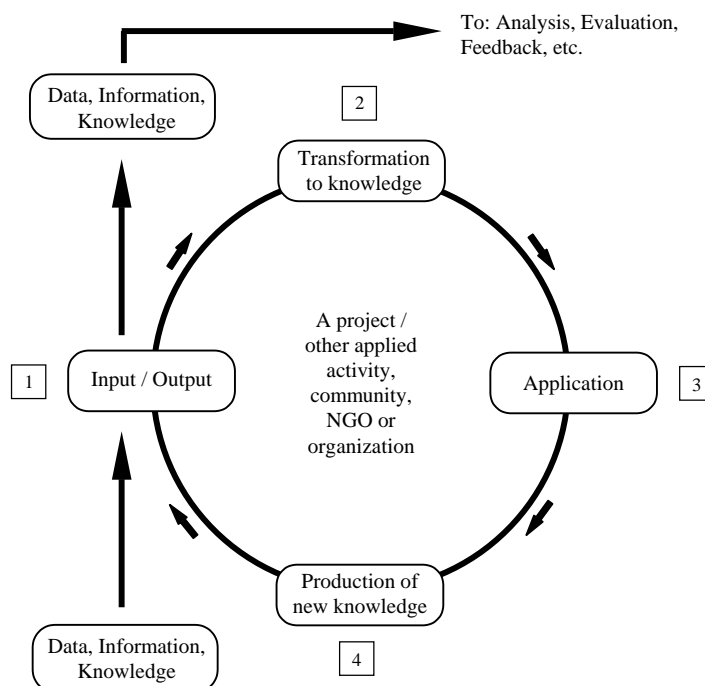
*On CBNRM Net as a network and virtual community.* EOC epitomizes the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies (ICTs) in managing the changes brought about because of globalization of environmental and developmental concerns, and the increased integration of environmental issues with socio-political concerns of development.

*CBNRM Net*, a network serving the global CBNRM community of practice, is an ongoing process and experiment in EOC. To achieve its goal of contributing to social change, leading to more equitable and sustainable natural resource management, *CBNRM Net* has moved from an emphasis on information and data to focusing on knowledge, and to management and production of such knowledge. *CBNRM Net's* communication model concentrates on fostering an open and inclusive dialogue involving all stakeholders, aimed at participation in defining and

implementing sustainable natural resource management strategies, and ensuring ownership of these strategies by all involved stakeholders. The strategic use of available communication tools, including the Web and e-mail, helps ensure such inclusion.

The knowledge management, knowledge production, and communication model that *CBNRM Net* has developed consists of a series of reiterative steps or sequences. These sequences place EOC in a larger context, and aims, through cyclical processes of adaptation and flexibility, to ensure that useful knowledge is made available at the right place at the right time (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. *CBNRM Net's* communication model: Processes of sequencing in knowledge management and knowledge production



[Ed. comment: The chapter on *CBNRM Net*, written by Lars T. Soeftestad and Prakash Kashwan, is listed in section 'Literature'. Part of the above story is adapted from the book's Preface. The initiative to compile the edited volume stems from the activities of the ECOresearch Network, an interdisciplinary collaboration that encourages scientific discourse and critical debate to establish a shared understanding of environmental online communication. The network also hosts the book's official website (URL below). The book will be available in April 2004, but as the chapter on *CBNRM Net* has already been distributed to *CBNRM Net* members, it made sense to present the book, the chapter on *CBNRM Net*, and some additional material (specifically Figure 1 above that presents a the flow chart showing *CBNRM Net's* communication model) now. To order the book contact Springer, the publisher (email below). Figure 1 above is not included in the chapter, and is available on the *CBNRM Net* website, together with the chapter itself (URL below).]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/library/documents/>

URL: <http://www.ecoresearch.net/springer/>

Email (Catherine Drury, Springer): [catherine@svl.co.uk](mailto:catherine@svl.co.uk)

Email (Arno Scharl): [arno.scharl@uwa.edu.au](mailto:arno.scharl@uwa.edu.au)

## Focus II: CBNRM in Botswana

CBNRM in Botswana: Networking visit. Following participation in the World Parks Congress in Durban in September 2003, I travelled to Botswana on a CBNRM networking visit. There are good reasons to be interested in the history and record of CBNRM in Botswana: (1) this is a programme that is covering the whole country, (2) it has lead to several interesting insights, experiences and results, (3) there has been a conscious effort at documenting and evaluating the progress, and (4) the program is closing this month, after 10 years of operation. I met with Nico Rozemeijer, Sr Advisor, CBNRM Support Programme Botswana & Representative of SNV/Netherlands Development Organization; and a *CBNRM Net* member since January 2000,

and also with Michael Vosa Flyman, an independent consultant, and a *CBNRM Net* member since October 2002).

*History of CBNRM in Botswana.* It all started with a CBNRM project that was launched in the Chobe enclave in northern Botswana in 1993 (Jones, Brian T.B., 2002, "Chobe Enclave, Botswana"; listed in section 'Literature'). The Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust (CECT) was the first trust to enter into a joint venture agreement with a private safari company, and as such the first community organization to earn large amounts of money from natural resource utilization. From these modest beginnings a plethora of groups, NGOs, companies and organizations, as located in civil society, the private sector and the public sector have embraced CBNRM. This is all the more remarkable given CBNRM's humble beginnings only 10 years back. There is, furthermore, also a National CBNRM Forum of Botswana that successfully argues the merits of CBNRM on behalf of its members on the national level.

*CBNRM in Botswana: how it works:* The entire country is split up into administrative blocks called Controlled Hunting Areas (CHAs). Each area has a wildlife off-take quota designated by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). Some CHAs, such as protected areas, have a hunting quota of zero. Other CHAs are designated for community-use. Before 1993, only individual citizens, that is, not community members, could apply for single Game Licenses to hunt certain game for their personal consumption. Now, if a community organizes itself and forms a representative Quota Management Committee, it can be recognized to manage the whole area's quota. The committee will decide how to divide up the quota among families, and send wildlife monitors out on hunting trips to make sure the quota is adhered to.

If the community then forms a legally recognized Trust and develops a Land Use Plan, it can apply for a lease over the CHA from the Tribal Land Board. This will allow the Trust to sub-lease use of their land and their quota to, for example, a tourism company for photographic or hunting safaris. This has the potential to bring in substantial income to rural areas.

Veld (forest/non-animal) resources can also be utilized, through co-operative harvesting and marketing ventures. Currently, some products are collected by community organizations and sold directly to the private sector or through NGOs. Processing and marketing techniques of various products are being explored. The Ministry of Agriculture has direct management authority over veld products and a detailed policy is being formulated to clarify community rights of tenure and exclusion.

The process for communities to gain rights over their resources is a complex one, especially since these areas are usually very rural, poor and under-educated. They need assistance in understanding their CBNRM rights and responsibilities, establishing committees and navigating the application procedure. This is where the NGOs come in.

*CBNRM in Botswana: Intangible benefits.* There are substantial intangible benefits from CBNRM that are difficult to measure and thus easily ignored. However, they can be essential to community participation and interest in CBNRM activities. There are three main categories of such benefits: (1) capacity building and empowerment, (2) cultural and aesthetic values of wildlife and local traditions, and (3) more secure livelihoods:

1. *Empowerment* is crucial to rural communities who have been divested of their rights to natural resource use; disarmed of their skills and status in a changing, more urbanized world; and fragmented with the replacement of informal social relationships by formal central government. CBNRM is providing communities with an opportunity for accountable leadership and representative local institutions, training in new skills combined with old, and legal recognition of their user and management rights over natural resources. These are important steps for rural dwellers to become more confident, proactive and capable in all aspects of their lives;
2. *Cultural benefits* are gained through renewal of familiar interactions with wildlife that were prohibited with nationalization of natural resources. Restoration of wildlife numbers and traditional relations with the environment are particularly significant for elderly people and the Basarwa, and
3. *Livelihood security* of rural families can be significantly improved through the income diversification and cash flow that CBNRM provides. CBNRM activities can provide employment to residents in areas with only a few formally waged jobs, increase food-

security in droughts, and provide the critical extra money for things like school uniforms, housing materials, and transport costs.

*CBNRM in Botswana: Financial benefits.* Financial benefits from CBNRM are disbursed through: (1) employment-creation, (2) community projects, and (3) individual household dividends.

1. Employment creation is the most concrete, and the one SNV tries to maximize. People understand the benefits of employment: you perform your job duties and are paid a wage. The money is earned in a transparent, direct and consistent manner,
2. Community projects, such as schools, clinics, boreholes, funeral funds or grinding mills, are strongly encouraged by many implementing organizations, as the benefits are viewed as obvious and fair to the whole community. In areas with poor infrastructure, these projects are crucial for providing settlements with basic services. However, the Botswana government has been extremely conscientious about providing rural communities with water, education, roads, and health services. Thus, basic community needs are already met to a large extent, and
3. Household dividends are “handouts” – money the Trust has earned (from a joint venture or safari lease) and simply distributes among individuals. This option has been criticized for not instilling a concrete link between active conservation and benefits among communities. It is true that there is less visibility and regulation over what cash is spent on, and it seems like “easy money.” Cash earned from employment also lacks official regulation, but is viewed as more “deserved.”

*CBNRM in Botswana: The national CBNRM review.* Ten years after the Chobe Enclave there was an urge amongst stakeholders to reflect upon the progress made, assess the extent to which the initial CBNRM objectives have been met, the problems encountered, and to find a way forward to improve on the design and implementation of the approach. In addition, in recent years other reasons emerged to do a thorough review of CBNRM in Botswana. Government raised concerns about the occasional skewed benefit distribution of natural resource use at the community level, and the often-inadequate community financial management systems and resulting lack of accountability. The private sector raised concern about stagnating enterprise development, especially in the tourism sector, despite the great economic potential. Support organizations as well as international donors called for guidance on how to build upon experiences and further develop the CBNRM approach. Furthermore, the other countries in the region such as Namibia and Mozambique are interested in learning from the development of the CBNRM approach in Botswana. Upon this background the National CBNRM Forum successfully rallied all stakeholders to embark upon a national review of CBNRM in Botswana, and to locate funding. DFID, the CBNRM Support Programme, and GEF/SGP provided the necessary funds. The outputs of the review, which took place during spring and summer of 2003, are available in two volumes: Vol. I - Main findings, and Vol. II - Case studies (available on the Programme’s website (URL below)).

*The CBNRM Support Programme.* The programme (also referred to as the IUCN/SNV CBNRM Support Programme) started in 1999 and is funded by the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV). Over the years, the programme has played an important role in development of CBNRM in the country, and in various capacities, including providing advice, networking, organization of various regional and national-level activities, and in evaluation, documentation and dissemination. The website and the Occasional Paper series, in particular, have been invaluable in accumulating, organizing, structuring, analyzing and disseminating the growing body of knowledge on CBNRM in Botswana.

SNV does not try to control how project participants spend their money, through mandatory banking or communal infrastructure projects. Cash flow is imperative for rural communities in Botswana that are provided with basic services from government but remain extremely cash poor. Subsistence activities are marginal and regular employment rare; most households depend on pensions, casual labor (domestic work, herding, piece work), and selling informally-produced items (traditional beer, crafts, limited veld products) to bring in the small, but badly required, amount of money for transport, clothes, supplemental food, and school fees.

SNV instead devised the “Expenditure and Reinvestment Workshop” as a tool to assist CBOs, while communities and facilitating organizations determine what concrete goods and services households need and want, before earnings from CBNRM begin. The goals are twofold: to start participants and the community planning for what they want to spend extra money on, and to inform the Trust how to assist in fulfilling the plans. The workshop, being part of a strategy in risk-avoidance through provision of scarce services and goods, was introduced in Ukhwi but never applied elsewhere. Efforts are underway to implement this idea anew, by asking or obliging communities to prepare a Community Investment Plan prior to receiving a quota.

As the economy in Botswana has bettered over the years aid flows into Botswana gradually has slowed down, and this month marks the end for the IUCN/SNV CBNRM Support Programme. This also means that SNV will leave Botswana after having worked there for 28 years. Also leaving is Hivos, which funded SNV activities. Nico Rozemeijer himself is leaving the country after having lived there for many years, and is moving back to the Netherlands. With his wealth of experience on CBNRM Nico will continue to work on CBNRM and related activities, in a capacity to be chosen. *CBNRM Net* will most certainly be an available outlet for whatever he decides to do in this area in the future.

*The future:* The Programme website, including all the resources available there, will be available in the future (URL below), likewise the email address (email below). IUCN Botswana will manage these resources and maintain continuity. IUCN Botswana will strive to secure funding for a second phase of the programme.

The timing of the National Review was opportune, as the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Local Government have agreed to “restart” the district consultation process on the draft CBNRM Policy. This “restart” was prompted by questions asked in Parliament recently regarding the delay of the finalisation of the Policy. It is expected that the combined consultation process and the National Review will result in an updated and improved CBNRM Policy, to be presented to Parliament towards the end of 2004, following elections.

[Ed. comment: Some of the material in this story is adapted from the Programme’s website and various Programme publications. A large number of publications to come out the programme are listed in section ‘Literature’. Thanks to Nico Rozemeijer, over the years a number of documents dealing with CBNRM in Botswana in general, and the Programme in particular, authored by the Programme and him, are listed in various Newsletters and made available for downloading on the *CBNRM Net* website. A CD-ROM with all CBNRM Support Programme publications in the period 1999-2003 has been prepared (listed in section ‘Literature’). The Programme’s website and email address will remain operational (URL and email address below).]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.bw/>

Email (CBNRM Support Programme): [information@cbnrm.bw](mailto:information@cbnrm.bw)

Email (IUCN Botswana): [iucn@iucnbot.bw](mailto:iucn@iucnbot.bw)

### **Focus III: The Vth World Parks Congress, Durban 2003**

As I mentioned in an earlier Newsletter, I participated in the World Parks Congress in Durban in September 2003, as did several other *CBNRM Net* members. I was involved in one of the several Streams throughout the conference, namely the Governance Stream. There was a number of specific events, including panels and papers that address CBNRM specifically, many of which addressed issues in Southern Africa. Beyond this, it is clear that CBNRM is an implicit and important part of many, if not all, the key issues addressed at the conference. Specifically, successful conservation depends on using CBNRM principles and creating governance structures and processes that have been tried and proven in many CBNRM projects around the world.

For a brief summary of the conference, relevant from the point of view of CBNRM, I turn to a preliminary but concise summary posted by Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend on the CMWG listserv on 30 September 2003 (for links, etc., see at the end of the story):

(1) “Full recognition that conservation can and should be the concern and engagement of society as a whole, and not only of a few expert professionals. This demands much more attention to each and every specific context in terms of:

- History (of nature, people, conservation),
- Culture,

- Governance (processes and institutions),
- Embracing a pluralism of views, capacities, disciplines and institutional arrangements,
- Conciliating different interests and concerns and negotiating agreements on an on-going way,
- Matching biophysical and institutional scales,
- Strengthening the ties between Protected Areas (PAs) and the broader landscape and seascape (e.g., through bio-cultural corridors), and
- Linking across boundaries (emerging trends of trans-boundary PAs).

(2) “Full recognition that conservation needs to incorporate ethical/moral considerations. Indeed oppression and injustices can be sustained for a long time and community support is not always necessary to sustain protected areas, which can well exist and thrive after having exploited and devastated people and communities. Conservation should DO NO HARM for pragmatic reasons (e.g., to obtain a broader public recognition and support) but also, and more importantly so, for ethical reasons. It is not admissible to continue to do conservation by trampling upon human rights.

(3) “Representatives of indigenous and mobile peoples declared to be ready to collaborate for conservation. Building the necessary trust demands coming to terms with the past, vastly improving the conservation behaviour in the present and working very differently in the future. An important mechanism to do all of the above has been identified as a “Truth and Reconciliation Commission” between Indigenous and Mobile Peoples and Protected Areas. A feasibility study about this may be engaged rather soon.

(4) “Mobile livelihoods finally recognized as very powerful potential allies of conservation. Also appreciated that mobile peoples, their herds and their paths establish powerful bio-cultural corridors in the landscape. The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous People (WAMIP) created and ready to engage in integrated conservation and livelihood initiatives.

(5) “Governance of protected areas is recognized as a major new dimension in PA analysis, and five principles of “good governance” deriving from the work of the UN endorsed for the management of protected areas (with due consideration for local circumstances, traditions and knowledge systems). These principles are a master way to inject ethical consideration into PA management.

(6) “PA governance to be evaluated in a participatory way, allowing for improvements in management effectiveness and equity. A proposal was made, for instance, to create an African Observatory on PA Governance.

(7) “A variety of governance types – broadly distinguished on the basis of who holds PA management authority and responsibility and is held accountable for decisions – established as legitimate and important for conservation. These include:

- Government managed PAs,
- Co-managed PAs (i.e. multi-stakeholder management),
- Privately managed PAs, and
- Community conserved areas (see the note by the Community and Equity Group).

(8) “A variety of governance types recognized as determinant to strengthening the management and expanding the coverage of the world’s protected areas, addressing gaps in national protected area systems, improving connectivity at landscape and seascape level, enhancing public support for conservation, increasing the flexibility and responsiveness of PA systems and thereby improving their sustainability and strengthening the relationship between people and nature.

(9) “The IUCN PA categorisation system (based on key management objectives) to be integrated with a new dimension about “governance type” and to be strengthened with reference to cultural management objectives (much more attention to be given to the crucial ties between biological and cultural diversity!)

(10) “Community empowerment recognised as a most powerful avenue to enhance conservation (recognition of collective rights, local institutions, security of tenure, community conserved areas, rightful participation in co-managing protected areas, etc.). Particular attention to be given to local organizing, effective forms of representation and participatory democracy.”



[Ed. comment: The above is adapted from the original. "Policy Matters" no. 12, which deals with community empowerment and conservation, was launched at the conference; it is listed in section 'Literature'. The key outputs of the conference, including the Durban recommendations, the Action plan, the Accord and the Message to the CBD, are all available on the Internet (URL below).]

URL: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/>  
Email: [gbf@cenesta.org](mailto:gbf@cenesta.org)

## Networking

Botswana: Networking visit. See section 'Focus II: CBNRM in Botswana'.

Africa: Africa Resources Trust (ART) - organizational changes. The former Africa Resources Trust (ART) is now two organisations: (1) Africa Resources Trust (Zimbabwe), and (2) ResourceAfrica (England and South Africa). All ART documents will be (or is already) available on the ResourceAfrica website.

ResourceAfrica – URL: <http://resourceafrica.org/> | Email: [info@resourceafrica.org](mailto:info@resourceafrica.org)  
Africa Resources Trust – URL: <http://www.art.org.zw/> | Email: [info@art.org.zw](mailto:info@art.org.zw)

CBNRM Net endorses the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter Initiative is seeking to develop a worldwide base of support for the Earth Charter. The Initiative is promoting the endorsement, dissemination, implementation and formal and non-formal educational use of the Earth Charter by individuals and organizations in all sectors of society. Nevertheless, organizations are asked to send an official letter of support as stated in the Statement of Endorsement.

Endorsement of the document by individuals and groups in civil society and by businesses and governments builds support for environmental protection and development of a just, sustainable, and peaceful world. It also helps to advance the effort to obtain the endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations.

### Endorsement Statement:

We, the undersigned, endorse the Earth Charter. We embrace the spirit and aims of the document. We pledge to join the global partnership for a just, sustainable and peaceful world and to work for the realization of the values and principles of the Earth Charter.

We pledge to join the Global Partnership in Support of the Earth Charter Initiative for a sustainable way of life AND urge all governments to endorse the Earth Charter.

### Meaning of endorsing the Charter:

Endorsement of the Earth Charter by individual or organizations signifies a commitment to the spirit and aims of the document. It also means a commitment to work for the implementation of the values and principles of the Earth Charter and a readiness to cooperate with others in this endeavor.

The Earth Charter Initiative is seeking to develop a worldwide base of support for the Earth Charter. The Initiative is promoting the endorsement, dissemination, implementation and formal and non-formal educational use of the Earth Charter by individuals and organizations in all sectors of society. Nevertheless, organizations are asked to send an official letter of support as stated in the Statement of Endorsement.

Endorsement of the document by individuals and groups in civil society and by businesses and governments builds support for environmental protection and development of a just, sustainable, and peaceful world. It also helps to advance the effort to obtain the endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations.

[Ed. comment: The Earth Charter is available from the Earth Charter website. *CBNRM Net*, as a collective, and its members in their personal capacities, can use the Earth Charter in several ways, including as: (1) an education tool, (2) an invitation to internal reflection on fundamental attitudes and ethical values governing behavior, (3) a catalyst for multi-sectoral cross-cultural, and interfaith dialogue on global ethics and the direction of globalization, (4) a call to action and guide to a sustainable way of life that can inspire commitment, cooperation, and change, (5) a values framework for creating sustainable development policies and plans at all levels, (6) an instrument for designing professional codes of conduct that promote accountability and for assessing progress towards sustainability in businesses, communities, and nations, and (7) a soft law instrument that provides an ethical foundation for the ongoing development of environmental and sustainable development law.

URL: <http://www.earthcharter.org/>  
Email: [info@earthcharter.org](mailto:info@earthcharter.org)

Southern Africa: CASS/PLAAS CBNRM Programme. CASS (University of Zimbabwe) and PLAAS (University of Western Cape, South Africa) have jointly implemented a regional programme of research, analysis and communication on CBNRM in Southern Africa since 1999. The first phase closed earlier this year (2003). Following an evaluation, the programme funders, Ford Foundation and International Development Research Centre, agreed to support a second phase of the programme from 2003 until early 2007.

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the enhancement and sustainability of rural livelihoods as a means to reduce poverty in Southern Africa. It will do so by promoting and engaging communities and decision-makers to have a deeper understanding of how natural resources can be used and managed sustainably to enhance rural livelihoods, and advocating a people-centered approach to development and biodiversity conservation. The programme recognizes the value and use of a variety of natural resources in a range of livelihood activities by a diverse population of resource users operating at different scales. Relevant units of analysis and targeted policy arenas will range from the local to the intermediate to the global, and include relationships between actors and institutions operating at different scales.

[Ed. comment: An inaugural workshop to the second phase was organized in November 2003, see story in section 'Conferences, seminars and workshops'. The workshop is listed on the *CBNRM Net* website.]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.uwc.ac.za/>

Email (Webster Whande): [wwhande@uwc.ac.za](mailto:wwhande@uwc.ac.za)

## **Activities and interventions**

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

Eastern Africa: Integrating communities in NRM. The African Conservation Centre (ACC) is a regionally focused conservation organization based in Nairobi. ACC's program "Community-Based Natural Resource Management" focuses on equipping resource users with the tools for sustainable use of available natural resources in their localities.

The goal of this programme is to improve conservation of resources through increased benefits to communities and landowners in areas critical to conservation of wildlife in Kenya. This includes critical wildlife habitats, seasonal grazing areas around parks and game reserves.

The specific objectives are: (1) Carry out detailed natural resources inventory focusing on habitat distribution, status, critical habitats and current land use patterns, (2) Establish community-based resource management institutions to plan for sustainable management and utilization of the available resource base, and (3) Prioritize and support development interventions that enhance use of resources efficiently and sustainably. The major tools include: planning skills, management skills and powers to control the use and allocation of the resources and benefits from them.

The programme is under implementation. Major activities undertaken to date include: (1) Sensitization and mobilization of communities in the core areas of ACC projects, (2) Identification, establishment and acceptance of community-based natural resource planning institutions, (3) Focusing of the community-based natural resource planning teams to identify and prioritizes interventions that enhance sustainable use of resources and supports conservation of biodiversity, (4) Development of natural resource location maps with the community, (5) Development of natural resource management plan for 2001-2005, and (6) Facilitation of communities in to identify and set aside wildlife conservation areas and identify tourism related projects that enhance the flow of benefits to the community.

[Ed. comment: ACC intends to continue this program over a reasonable time period to ensure that the target communities are well trained to plan, manage, and sustain the identified project and related natural resources. This will involve helping communities to write proposals, linking them to potential donors and other stakeholders and facilitating them to acquire relevant skills and knowledge to run community projects. For further information contact ACC (email below). See story on ACC in section 'Tools'.]

Email: [info@acc.or.ke](mailto:info@acc.or.ke)

## Projects

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

Philippines: Community-Based Resource Management Project. This project seeks to reduce rural poverty and environmental degradation through support for locally generated and implemented natural resource management projects.

This project consists of four components: (1) sub-loans for local government units (LGUs) subprojects will support investments in upland agriculture, community forestry, coastal resources and near-shore fisheries, and small scale rural infrastructure, (2) Municipal Development Fund (MDF) rural window initiative and project management will support the overall project management and the appraisal of subprojects, (3) planning and implementation support for LGUs will provide training in preparing development plans, and will manage procurement and financial matters, and (4) environmental technology transfer and policy management will: (a) support DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) in site verification, training, and conducting studies on tenurial instruments, (b) support the production and packaging of technology, verification of technology, and preparation of environment reports, and (c) finance the technical services for coastal and aquatic resources

[Ed. comment: The World Bank finances the project (Project no. 057598, approved 03/1998, Bank Team Lead: Gilbert M. Braganza). Further details, including project documents, are available in the World Bank's online projects database.]

Email: [gbraganza@worldbank.org](mailto:gbraganza@worldbank.org)  
URL: <http://www.worldbank.org/>

## Conferences, seminars and workshops

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

Southern Africa: CASS/PLAAS CBNRM Programme, Inaugural workshop. This workshop, "Breaking new ground. New approaches to CBNRM for development in Southern Africa", was organized at the University of Western Cape, 24-25 November 2003.

This inaugural workshop to the second phase of the Programme addressed CBNRM's crisis of confidence in Southern Africa through presentation of papers that dealt with the status of the CBNRM sector in the region. More specifically, the following was addressed:

- The status of CBNRM in the region,
- Based on the first phase evaluation report, discuss lessons from phase 1,
- Plan for phase 2 programme activities,
- Finalization of research themes, and
- Constitute research teams to address the chosen themes.

The workshop aimed to discuss the status of the CBNRM sector in the region, and to make recommendations for how phase 2 of the programme can contribute to revitalisation of the sector.

[Ed. comment: The announcement is available on the *CBNRM Net* website. The workshop report will hopefully also be available. See story on the second phase of the Programme in section 'Networking'.]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.uwc.ac.za/>  
Email (Webster Whande): [wwhande@uwc.ac.za](mailto:wwhande@uwc.ac.za)

Riverine biodiversity conservation and restoration. A workshop on "Community approaches to riverine biodiversity conservation and restoration", organized by the Global Environment Centre, will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14-15 February 2004. It takes place in connection with the CBD COP7 meeting in Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 February 2004.

The main objective is to share experiences in Malaysia and other countries on riverine biodiversity conservation issues. The following themes will be addressed: (1) Conservation of freshwater fishes in Malaysia, (2) Integrating biodiversity conservation in river management plans, and (3) River rehabilitation and restoration programme.

[Ed. comment: Further information available on the River Basin Initiative website (URL below). Deadline for submissions is 2 February 2004. Contact email is below.

URL: <http://www.riverbasin.org/>  
Email: [suzana@genet.po.my](mailto:suzana@genet.po.my)

Southern Africa: Communities and conservation. A workshop titled “Communities and conservation in Southern Africa: Key issues and challenges towards a more equitable and sustainable future” was organized in Pretoria on 26-28 February 2003. The workshop was organized jointly by: (1) Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), School of Government, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa, (2) Africa Resources Trust, Harare, Zimbabwe, and (3) TILCEPA, a joint working group of the two IUCN Commissions WCPA and CEESP.

*Workshop Objectives.* The workshop explored the role of communities as actors and agents of conservation, not just users/destroyers of biodiversity resources. It identified ways of fitting lessons learned from southern Africa into the key themes to be dealt with at the WPC. These themes include ‘governance of protected areas’ and a crosscutting theme on ‘indigenous or local communities, equity and protected areas’. Specifically, the workshop:

- Reviewed, analysed and synthesised key lessons in the relationship between communities and protected areas,
- Identified ways to respond to these lessons and thereby to promote a more effective, sustainable and equitable practice for conservation, and
- Translated lessons into concrete policy inputs for the WPC.

*Workshop Themes.* The thematic focus of the workshop was ‘communities and conservation in local and national contexts’. This was explored with an eye on lessons learned both from historical experience and at the cutting edge of innovation, but also with respect to wider international economic contexts and engagements (for example, international trade, global environmental treaties, and the spread of trans-boundary natural resource management (TBNRM)). Five thematic papers were presented, complemented by respondents from a wide spectrum of southern African players. The themes were:

- *Theme 1* – Pre-colonial and colonial conservation practices and the legacy today,
- *Theme 2* – Origins and processes of modern community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) practices in the southern African region,
- *Theme 3* – Lessons learned from the philosophy and practice of CBNRM in southern Africa,
- *Theme 4* – Conditions for effective, stable, sustainable and equitable conservation at the national level in southern Africa, and
- *Theme 5* – The impact of regional and international instruments, policies and processes and donors on effective, sustainable and equitable conservation in southern Africa.

*Workshop Summary.* An underlying consensus informed the deliberations, namely that the concepts and structures that guided parks development in the 20th century are inadequate for the challenges of the 21st century. The constituencies and purposes of parks are rapidly changing and, if they are to have a significant place in southern Africa’s future politico-economic map, these changes must be addressed. The workshop warmly endorsed TILCEPA’s proposals to add a governance dimension to the IUCN’s list of PA categories, saying this dimension should include CCAs and CMPAs. Noting, from southern Africa’s extensive experience in CBNRM, that CCAs are institutionally inhibited by a lack of proprietary devolution, the workshop recommended that these be given the formal recognition and entitlements essential for their effective management. Noting that the active involvement of those living in and around protected areas can enhance both conservation and development objectives, the workshop recommended that protected area goals and structure should be reviewed to achieve this synergy and that CMPAs be further developed on the basis of negotiated formal agreements between parks management and neighboring authorities regarding reciprocal responsibilities and benefits.

**Statement on Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas on  
CCA, CMPAs and PAs (adopted on 28 February 2003)**

1. Community Conserved Areas

*Noting that:*

1. There is strong evidence that devolution to the lowest proprietary units delivers substantial institutional, livelihood and conservation benefits.
2. Many of the necessary tools, principles and knowledge to take devolution into effect have been developed and tested through a variety of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) initiatives.
3. Devolution principles and practices have seldom been applied to best effect in the southern African region.
4. TILCEPA's definition of CCAs as "natural and modified ecosystems including significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values voluntarily conserved by concerned indigenous and local communities through customary laws or other effective means" generally corresponds with the localized proprietary regimes which CBNRM experience in southern Africa suggests is appropriate for many contexts.
5. CCAs can be effective examples of devolution if they are provided with the necessary status and entitlements.

*The workshop therefore recommended that:*

CCAs and their associated proprietary rights and responsibilities be officially recognized in national and international statutes and included as a governance form with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) protected area (PA) category system.

2. Co-managed Protected Areas and Protected Areas

*Noting that:*

The provision of ecological and socio-economic value by official, state-declared protected areas is currently sub-optimal.

1. PAs in transitional societies will survive only by serving the needs of their constituencies, which include the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and also a variety of social, economic and cultural values.
2. The trade-offs between biodiversity and socio-economic values are currently exaggerated and the synergies underestimated.
3. Greater involvement of those living in and around protected areas can contribute to protected area and landscape conservation.
4. In many cases, protected areas can act as local engines for economic and social development.
5. Integrating protected areas into their surrounding landscapes and generating synergies with local communities has advantages in terms of both performance and accountability.

*The workshop accordingly recommended that:*

1. The goals and governance structures of official, state-declared PAs be reviewed to better contribute to the objectives of society at large and to enhance local livelihoods, governance and economic development.
2. State-declared PAs should provide residents and neighbors with full legitimacy and status in co-management governance structures.
3. CMPAs should function as subsidiary decision-making units, uniting legitimate stakeholders, internalizing costs and benefits and sharing them fairly through institutional mechanisms, rights and contractual obligations.

[Ed. comment: The above text is adapted from a poster summarizing the output of the workshop. This document is listed in section 'Literature', as is contact information.]

## Training and capacity building

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

Philippines: Participatory action research. An international course on “Participatory action research for community-based natural resource management”, at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Silang, Cavite, Philippines, 8-19 December 2003.

According to the organizers, the course is “designed specifically for decision-makers working in CBNRM. It is intended as a ‘think tank’ for CBNRM where participants reflect upon and share experiences on CBNRM, explore principles of Participatory Action Research (PAR), experiment with a range of tools for examining different perspectives relevant to CBNRM with actual stakeholders, critically analyze the PAR approach in relation to CBNRM, and have the opportunity to document their insights to add to the discourse on PAR for CBNRM. This will be the chance to exchange experiences on the current barriers to advancing CBNRM and evaluate whether PAR could make a contribution in addressing such challenges”.

[Ed. comment: This is billed as a ‘new’ course, to be arranged annually. See the 2004 course announced below.]

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

Email: [Education&Training@iirr.org](mailto:Education&Training@iirr.org)

Namibia and South Africa: CBNRM study tour. The South-North Tourism Route (SNTR), a sustainable and responsible tourism operation, is community-based. SNTR offers a “study tour” on CBNRM. Stretching over 2 weeks, the tour offers a detailed introduction to some of the key CBNRM issues in Southern Africa as it winds along the “South-North Tourism Route” in southern Namibia and the western part of South Africa.

[Ed. comment: The study tour is listed on the *CBNRM Net* website, URL below.]

URL: <http://www.south-north.co.za/>

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

Email: [daphne@ecoafrika.co.za](mailto:daphne@ecoafrika.co.za)

Thailand: Participatory action research. An international course on “Participatory action research for community-based natural resource management”, at RECOFTC, Thailand, 13-28 September 2004. A joint undertaking by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR, Philippines), Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC, Thailand), and International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada).

[Ed. comment: This course was first arranged in December 2003, see above.]

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

Email: [Education&Training@iirr.org](mailto:Education&Training@iirr.org)

Bangladesh: Community-Based Fisheries Management. This course will take place in Bangladesh 15-22 February 2004, organized by WorldFish. The course aims to: (1) introduce and improve understanding of community management and co-management, (2) enhance the skills of participants in working with communities and in facilitating community organisation and Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM), and (3) share experience and lessons from extensive piloting of CBFM.

The course will make use of the wealth of experience and lessons from community management of inland fisheries in Bangladesh, and will also draw on experience and lessons for co-management from other countries, particularly in Asia. Topics to be covered include: concepts and approaches, tools and techniques related to participatory planning, consensus building and advocacy, research on the performance of institutions and impacts of CBFM, and case studies and lessons from successful CBFM, including field visits to community-managed fisheries.

[Ed. comment: Contact person is Paul Thompson (email below).]

Email: [p.thompson@cgiar.org](mailto:p.thompson@cgiar.org)

Nepal: Farmer managed irrigation systems and governance. This seminar, organized by the Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust (FMIST), takes place in Kathmandu, Nepal, 9-10 September 2004. The objective is to share and disseminate knowledge and experience about Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems (FMIS) and the opportunities of governance alternatives offered by them.

[Ed. comment: The Announcement is available on the *CBNRM Net* website (URL below. Contact persons are Prachandra Pradhan, Upendra Gautam and Rajan Subedi, members of *CBNRM Net* since September 2001 (emails below).]

URL: <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/conferences/index.html>  
Emails: [pradhanp@mos.com.np](mailto:pradhanp@mos.com.np) | [cmsug@cms.wlink.com.np](mailto:cmsug@cms.wlink.com.np) | [fmist@wlink.com.np](mailto:fmist@wlink.com.np)

## Research

[See the *CBNRM Net* website for further listings and details, including documents that can be downloaded, at <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'. ]

Gender and natural resource management. Identifying and overcoming the barriers to women's and men's full participation in the management of the environment and natural resources is a necessary first step towards the ultimate goals of poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

The volume "Natural resources management and gender. A global source book", edited by Sarah Cummings, et al., aims to address this. An introduction discusses the history and current thinking on the relations between gender, the environment and natural resources and sustainable development. Following this are five country studies from India, Mesoamerica, Pakistan, Uganda and West Africa that illustrate the relation between women and land rights, gender approaches towards the management of water and wetlands, mainstreaming gender in environmental policy, and the need for a gender-differentiated participatory approach.

[Ed. comment: Also included is an annotated bibliography of printed and electronic publications and web resources. The publication is listed in section 'Literature'. A special focus on gender and natural resource management is available, including the publication's bibliography that can be downloaded (URL below).]

URL: [http://www.kit.nl/specials/html/gn\\_gender\\_and\\_nrm\\_home.asp](http://www.kit.nl/specials/html/gn_gender_and_nrm_home.asp)

CBNRM Net and environmental online communication. See section 'Focus I: *CBNRM Net* and environmental online communication'.

Pastoralists and participatory monitoring and evaluation. As a follow-up to the GTZ publication "Planning with Pastoralists: PRA and more" (French version: "Planification avec des Pasteurs: MARP et au-delà") in the mid-1990s, Wolfgang Bayer and Ann Waters-Bayer have collected and analyzed experiences in participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E). The publication is based on a review of published and 'grey' literature, communications with people and agencies working with pastoralists and the authors' field experiences, mainly in Africa. It includes attention to building of multi-stakeholder platforms for planning, implementing and assessing natural resource management, in which special efforts must be made to include nomadic livestock-keepers. The analytical review is followed by an annotated bibliography of 75 documents and a list of key electronic information sources on pastoralism.

[Ed. comment: The publication is listed in section 'Literature'.]

Conflict: skills and strategies for action. The source book "Working with conflict", by Fisher, Simon, et al., is aimed at people working in areas affected by conflict and violence. It provides a range of practical tools – processes, ideas, and techniques – for tackling conflict. There tools have been developed of a number of years by the organization Responding to Conflict (RTC), in collaboration with practitioners from around the world. Cases are drawn from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, Northern Ireland and South Africa.

The book is divided in 4 parts: (1) *Understanding* - A guide to understanding conflict, including practical techniques for conflict analysis and the critical issues that must be taken into account, including power, culture, identity, gender and rights, (2) *Strategies* - How to build effective strategies to address conflict, including how to influence policy within organizations, (3) *Action* - Intervening in situations of acute conflict, addressing the consequences, and working on the social fabric which conditions the emergence of conflict, and (4) *Evaluation* - The skills involved in the necessary processes of evaluation and learning in order to improve future interventions.

[Ed. comment: The publication is listed in section 'Literature'. A French translation is available.]

## Tools

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

Governance. The GRC Exchange is a new website presenting recent thinking in governance for development. Hosted by the Governance Resource Centre (GRC) of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and compiled by leading experts, the GRC Exchange provides a focal point for sharing ideas in governance.

[Ed. comment: The website includes special foci on Governance themes, Information database, Organisations database, Training and events, and Email update.]

URL: <http://www.grc-exchange.org/>  
Email: [enquiries@grc.bham.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@grc.bham.ac.uk)

CBNRM workshop methodologies. A report by Sandra N.W. Ng documents the process and effectiveness of workshop methodologies that were used in the community-based resource management workshop in Otavalo, Ecuador in March 2001. A combination of methodologies was used. The workshop was very successful, partly because the planning and facilitation were collaborative efforts involving Oxfam staff, partners and guests. The report covers discussions about planning logistics, an explanation of the various methodologies, lessons learned, and a description of the group's activities.

[Ed. comment: The publication is listed in section 'Literature'.]

Kenya: Community-based participatory mapping of land use options. The ecological zones in which biodiversity is often richest are also the areas in which some of the poorest people live. Efforts to conserve biological diversity will not succeed unless local people perceive those efforts as serving their economic and cultural interests. Conservation strategies must play a dual role of improving the management of natural resources and the quality of life of people. Unless the people who are most directly impacted by conservation projects perceive that those projects serve their economic and cultural interests, long-term conservation of biodiversity will not be feasible.

Innovative approaches must be applied to increase the probability of promoting successful conservation of biodiversity. Local communities need to be enabled and empowered to manage their natural resources on a continuous basis in order to ensure the effective and sustainable conservation of otherwise threatened biological resources.

By using tools that respect local institutions, culture and livelihoods, enable participatory development and implementation of natural resource management policies, the African Conservation Centre (ACC) expects to achieve greater success in conservation efforts.

GIS is one of the tools that are being used to equip communities in the management of their natural resources. In Imbirikani Group Ranch ACC is using GIS to:

- Assist the local communities understand and appreciate the natural resources available to them and the need for sustainable resource use,
- Map the location and of these resources,
- Identify the key threats to these resources and their conservation, and
- Map out their proposed strategy to manage the resources (zoning).

[Ed. comment: See story on ACC in section 'Activities and interventions'. Documents are available on the ACC website (URL below). For further information contact ACC (email below).]

URL: <http://www.conservationafrica.org/Imbirikani.htm>  
Email: [info@acc.or.ke](mailto:info@acc.or.ke)

The Access Initiative (TAI). This is a global civil society coalition promoting access to information, participation and justice in environmental decision-making. The objectives are to promote access to information, participation and justice in decision-making for the environment through: (1) identifying accomplishments and gaps in the national systems for public participation, (2) tracking progress in the development of national public participation systems, and (3) building national constituency and capacity for improved performance in access to information, participation and justice.

A recent publication is "Assessing access to information, participation, and justice for the environment: A guide", an interactive CD-ROM application is aimed at determining how well a government provides the public with access to decisions affecting the environment, set priorities



for policy makers, and raise public awareness. Towards this, the CD-ROM includes a detailed “how-to” guide”, an interactive database for recording research, a feature for creating customized reports, and glossaries, Internet links and PDF files of related publications.

[Ed. comment: The publication is listed in section ‘Literature’.]

URL: <http://www.accessinitiative.org/>  
Email: [access@wri.org](mailto:access@wri.org)

Communication and natural resource management. FAO, in collaboration with The Communication Initiative, has published a resource designed to serve as a learning tool, taking the reader through a series of exercises that explores various theoretical approaches and field experiences in communication applied to different development interventions and natural resource management issues.

This publication is interesting partly because one of the cases presented and discussed is a CBNRM project in Namibia (for details, see link to a *CBNRM Net* website page below). This project works with communal area residents on sustainable use of their resources combining reform of policy and legislation with implementation at the community level. Pilot projects identify community issues and test appropriate responses. Local experience is integrated into policy and legal development. Facilitated meetings work out differences. Sustainable resource management training provides skills. Meetings between communities and tour and resort companies build trust and help negotiate deals. Research is planned and carried out by government with community participation. Government incorporates lessons from pilot projects and community experience into policy.

The several cases that are presented are analyzed from the point of view of a number of theories, models and change principles: Paulo Freire, Steps to behaviour change, Theory of community-level structural models, Diffusion of innovation theory, and Theory of culture.

[Ed. comment: The publication is listed in section ‘Literature’.]

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

## Terminology

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

CBNRM practitioner. Any group or association that involves local people in a Natural Resource Management (NRM) project.

*Comments:* This definition would seem to say that a ‘CBNRM practitioner’ is a collective that involves local people. In other words, individuals cannot be CBNRM practitioners. Worse, local people – whether as individuals or collectives – cannot be CBNRM practitioners. To the extent that this is the meaning of this definition, it would appear to be a prime example of a traditional and increasingly unacceptable approach to development cooperation, in that it establishes a dichotomy between providers (CBNRM practitioners) and recipients (local people).

[Ed. comment: This definition comes from the online “CBNRM Practitioners Directory”, by the Sharing and Promotion of Awareness and Regional Knowledge (SPARK) Programme. SPARK is implemented by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, in partnership with: The Indonesian Tropical Institute (LATIN), Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) in Philippines, and Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) in Thailand.]

URL: <http://www.esscspark.org/>  
Email: [admin@essc.org.ph](mailto:admin@essc.org.ph)

## Other news

[Contains information that falls outside the regular knowledge management categories on the *CBNRM Net* website.]

Sudan and Sub-Saharan Africa: Ecology and sources of conflicts. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), released the report “*Ecological aspects of the conflict*” in March 2003, addressing the situation in Sudan. The report was the outcome of a meeting jointly organized by the Nairobi-based African Centre for Technological Studies (ACTS) and the Freidrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation (FES), the German funding agency.

The report urges African policy makers to adhere to the principles of good governance and fair use and distribution of natural resources. Furthermore, they should move beyond

“traditional” methods of conflict management that have so far failed to produce tangible solutions to conflicts in the region. Instead they should adopt an integrated approach that takes into account ecological sources of conflict, if their efforts to bring peace to the region are to be successful.

This relatively new school of thought is being advanced by conflict management scholars, who seek to incorporate an environmental perspective into diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving and preventing wars in the sub-Saharan region. Conflict management approaches so far have largely focused on political sources of conflict, which simply acted as triggers, rather than the root causes of conflict in the region. Diplomatic approaches traditionally used in the region have largely focused on the textbook concepts of conflict management, notably “conflict resolution”, “conflict management” and “post conflict disarmament and rehabilitation”.

*Complexities.* The meeting also examined the findings of a research project that studied ecological dimensions in selected conflicts in sub-Saharan countries. The findings have been documented in *“Scarcity and surfeit: the ecology of Africa’s conflicts”*, ed. by Jeremy Lind and Kathryn Sturman. The book identifies important ecological factors that often not only sustain the cycle of violence in the sub-Saharan Africa’s conflicts, but in some cases trigger conflicts.

Conflict systems in Africa are operationally complex. The levels of engagement and the number of variables underlying conflict are many; and more often than not the operation of conflict is uncertain. Sub-Saharan countries have environments that not only have diverse extremes but which have great significance to the livelihoods of local communities. Climatic factors also characterize these environments, in cyclical patterns that have shaped population movements and regional conflict systems. In addition, many of the ecological factors and livelihood systems straddle international borders in the form of drainage basins, rivers and lakes, which result in seasonal cross-border migration by pastoralist communities. Where resources are scarce, resulting from environmental stress and mismanagement, high population growth or unfavorable climatic factors, conflicts have emerged out of competing interests for the resources.

Ethnicity also has become a factor of survival and conflict in specific ecological zones with resource scarcity. Because conflict takes on ethnic dimensions in Africa, where wars generally involve militias and guerrilla groups rather than troops, civilians are targeted just because they belong to the ‘enemy group’. Ecological borders, therefore, tend to become ethnic and social borders, and often the scene of conflict.

*Scarcity.* Scarcity of land and continued environmental degradation is one of the main ecological dimensions that the researchers have associated with several conflicts in the region.

In Rwanda for example, the ruling elite, who framed the issue on political terms, further aggravating the conflict, resulting in the 1994 genocide, politicized land scarcity. The Rwandese conflict has been wrongly portrayed as a purely ethnic problem. But there were also issues of ecological scarcity. The management of the conflict was not properly addressed. They aimed at defusing ethnic tensions, but ignored aspects of ecological scarcity.

Land scarcity also has been found to be an indirect source of conflict in the agriculturally rich Jubaland region of southern Somalia, where much of the fighting in the country’s civil war is concentrated. Several factions in Somalia have battled for control in the Jubaland region, in part to stake their claim to its resource-rich ‘deegan’ [a Somali concept referring to exclusive control of land and its resources]. Conflict in Jubaland centres on access and control of deegan. The overall ecology of the southern Somalia region is considerably drier and less favorable to agro-pastoralists than is the Jubaland region.

*Abundance.* Scarcity, however, is not the only source of conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. Ecological abundance also has been found to be the source of some of the most violent conflicts in the region.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a case in point, where abundant natural resources such as gold, diamonds and coltan (a valuable mineral discovered only recently in the country), have resulted in the deaths of millions of people since the colonial period. Up to 3.5 million people have been killed in eastern DRC as a direct result of regional and international interests in exploiting coltan. Regional efforts aimed at bringing peace to DRC, notably the Lusaka peace accord, have only addressed the political interests of the parties to the conflict.

History repeats itself in the way of violent and illicit exploitation of its abundant resource base. There is a long and tragic history of resource predation in Congo, beginning during the time when Congo was a private concession held by Belgian king Leopold, lasting through to the time the country was ruled by Mobutu Sese Seko, and continuing during the ongoing civil war that followed the demise of Mobutu's regime. This is no longer a Congolese war. There were six foreign armies in Congo that have been reduced to three. The fact the Rwanda and Uganda have fought six times inside Congo is a clear sign that they are interested in Congolese wealth.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, exploitation of natural resources – which directly determine the livelihoods of communities – is often marked by patterns of predation, exploitation and lack of political accountability. At the same time, those with the means to add value to the commodities often belong to particular elite groups, which act in their own interests at the expense of primary producers.

In Burundi for example, the commodity chain-linking peasants to consumers includes a number of actors and groups, at the top of which the government coffee sector regulatory body maintains a monopoly over coffee exports, while fixing lower prices for the producers.

Ecological conflicts between people and their governments also have been sustained by foreign elements that are interested in exploiting the resources.

Ecological conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa also have international dimensions, such as the Nile river basin, whose resources are contested by 10 countries. Although the Nile waters were entirely allocated to Egypt and Sudan, by a treaty they signed with British colonial government, upstream riparian countries – particularly Ethiopia – have challenged the agreements.

[Ed. comment: The story is adapted from the original. Both publication are listed in section 'Literature'.]

Africa: Nature, wealth and power. USAID, in collaboration with the International Resources Group (IRG), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Winrock International and the World Resources Institute (WRI), has initiated a dialogue on rural Africa, to take place over the next few years with African partners and others interested in the topic. While the fate of Africa's natural resources cannot be separated from the broader context of economic and development challenges, neither can Africa's economic and development future be separated from the management of its natural resource.

Building on lessons learned from more than 20 years of natural resource-based development in rural Africa, the document "Nature, wealth, and power" presents principles and action steps that can serve as a guide to investment. The intention is to initiate discussion, and thus it is part of the dialogue envisioned. The opening paragraph, setting the stage for the dialogue, reads:

"Natural resources are a major source of wealth and power in Africa; they are also a key to rural development and good governance. Natural resources – land, minerals, forests, wildlife, and water – are central to the livelihoods of 70 percent of the population and dominate some Africa economies. The continent has a rich natural resource endowment, but its industrial and service sectors are just emerging. To some extent, natural resources in Africa are significantly underutilized, and in many cases, the full potential is not even known, let alone realized. Natural resources will continue to drive Africa's economics for decades to come. Access and control over resources is the major governance issue, especially for rural people, and it is the bread and butter issue on which democracy must deliver. Natural resource management is central to good governance and increasing enfranchisement of rural peoples."

[Ed. comment: The document is listed in section 'Literature'.]

USAID: CBNRM policy in Africa. The "Environmental guidelines for small scale activities in Africa" (or "Small scale guidelines") is USAID Africa Bureau's principal source of sector-specific environmental guidance. The Guidelines is currently being completely updated and expanded. The draft, dated February 2003, is available on the Environmental Assessment Capacity Building Program (ENCAP) website for review and use (URL below).

Chapter 3 deals with CBNRM in detail. Below, the first section of this chapter, titled "What is community-based natural resource management?" is included. This should provide for interesting reading for many among you, whether you agree with it or not. In either case, I would be interested in hearing from you. We might still have a chance to influence the text!

“Much of the world’s biodiversity is located in Africa south of the Sahara. In some locations diversity is eight times the world average, four times that of the United States, and twice that of Brazil. However, human impacts on this biodiversity are increasingly severe. Forest, savannah and coastal ecosystems are being rapidly degraded, along with protected areas, national parks, game reserves and forests. The threats to these areas of high global value come from uncontrolled clearing for agriculture, hunting, poaching, logging, grazing, and fuel-wood extraction by both residents and outsiders. Often, there is extreme social and political pressure from impoverished communities to overexploit the available resources. Most African governments have neither the resources nor the effective institutions needed to implement environmental regulations deterring unsustainable exploitation.

“Sub-Saharan Africa is also one of the world’s poorest regions – 46 percent of the population lives below the poverty line (less than \$1.08/day). Impoverished communities often live in regions that enjoy high biodiversity, or remain relatively unspoiled, but support only meager subsistence agriculture. Only 5.5 percent of the land in Southern Africa is arable, for example, so a large number of people are living in areas of marginal agricultural value. Some of these areas are officially protected as parks or national forests; others are communal lands, generally with conflicting national and local claims of ownership.

“Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) attempts to address the problems of poverty and natural resource degradation simultaneously – even though their solutions are often seen as being in direct conflict. It grew out of the recognition that:

1. Unsustainable local practices often drive resource degradation in Africa,
2. Existing legal, social and economic policies – in particular the absence of nationally recognized individual or communal resource tenure rights – inhibit sustainable resource use, and
3. Governments in developing countries often lack the financial or institutional resources to adequately manage or regulate natural resource use.

“CBNRM programs are described here because they represent promising approaches to mitigating or preventing environmental damage to commonly managed or owned resources. Under CBNRM, local communities benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources. Although core principles and elements of CBNRM have been identified, they are still new and evolving. There are many adaptations, depending on variations in locations and legal, social, political and economic contexts.

“The premise of CBNRM is that communities will manage local resources in a sustainable manner if they: (1) are assured of their ownership of the natural resources, (2) they are allowed to use the resources and/or benefit directly from others’ use of the, and (3) given a reasonable level of control over management of the resources.

“Secure community tenure rights are essential to the establishment of CBNRM programs. CBNRM efforts involve processes that often help strengthen local democratic governance, increase the community’s standard of living, improve gender balance in resource management, and help provide women with greater income and independence.

“Ideally, CBNRM objectives are pursued through a collaborative process that includes representatives from the local community, national resource protection agencies, local and district government, sponsoring donors, and NGOs.

“Several countries in Africa have created national programs to promote CBNRM. Most have focused on wildlife, since hunting – especially trophy hunting – provides by far the largest source of revenue. In many countries, international aid organizations such as USAID, and international NGOs – in particular the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the African Wildlife Foundation, the World Wildlife Foundation, and Conservation International – have sponsored, facilitated and catalyzed many current CBNRM projects.

“Under model CBNRM programs, the first step is changing land tenure laws to give the community secure ownership of and responsibility for one or more natural resources in its region. With guidance from international donors and NGOs, the community defines

boundaries and membership, develops an organizational structure, and decides on a set of operating principles they consider fair and representative. Partners work to help the community resolve disputes over boundaries and obtain legal recognition.

“The community, together with the donor and NGO partners, works with technical staff from national natural resource agencies, and with local and regional officials, to develop a set of shared goals, objectives and desired results. As objectives and activities are defined, communities and partners choose among revenue-generating options, set targets, develop a financial management system, and build capacity in both organizational development and financial management. This effort must also ensure that communities have the necessary permits and legal standing to operate revenue-generating CBNRM programs.

“In many cases, partners provide technical assistance to help communities establish joint ventures with private sector tour operators, hunting safari companies, and operators of lodges, camps and hotels. Under such circumstances, partners collaborate to ensure equitable treatment for the community and individual members through the establishment of legal contractual agreements or ‘trusts’. If government permits or licenses are necessary to establish a community enterprise using natural resources, partners work together to obtain the permits. These then constitute a contractual agreement between the government and the community.

“International partners provide the training necessary to establish and maintain the enterprise, giving particular attention to women in the community. Training may include, but is not limited to, literacy, contract negotiation, bookkeeping, environmental mitigation and monitoring, marketing, and financing. At the same time, partners may work to develop the capacity to conduct training in CBNRM by other local, regional or national NGOs, and perhaps the government’s natural resource agency as well.

“Community organizations need to develop guidelines for safely collecting, holding and distributing income, as well as making decisions on community-funded development projects. Revenues and income needs to be distributed fairly within the community and among partners. Community members may then use the funds to establish additional small natural resource-based businesses, especially those using ‘non-timber forest products’ such as herbs, teas, medicines, wild fruits, ornamental plants, etc. Woodcarving and folk art may also provide local income.

“Once the NRM program is established, natural resource use is carefully monitored to ensure sustainability. Over time, oversight from international partners diminishes. NGO and government partners will typically retain a low level of involvement, providing assistance only when needed.”

[Ed. comment: Chapter 3 of this document is listed in section ‘Literature’.]

URL: <http://www.encapafrica.org/SmallScaleGuidelines.htm>

Email: [wknausenberger@usaid.gov](mailto:wknausenberger@usaid.gov)

Solomon Islands: The Roviana and Vonavona marine resource management projects. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur and Packard Foundations have funded two multidisciplinary projects: “Roviana and Vonavona Lagoons marine resource management project” and “Establishing marine protected areas and spatio-temporal refugia in the Roviana and Vonavona Lagoons, Solomon Islands.” The projects build upon earlier studies and have brought together scholars and students from University of California Santa Barbara, the University of Otago (New Zealand), and WWF-Solomon Islands. This summary illustrates how the strengths of anthropological research are combined with current marine science methods to study different dimensions of maritime practice.

The projects aim to: (1) investigate the transformation of regional demographic patterns and their impact on common-property institutions, (2) explore regional spatial patterns of settlement and their resulting tenurial configurations, (3) study the impact of changing consumption patterns on common-property institutions, (4) examine regional differences in cultural knowledge regarding tenure rules and their social and environmental consequences, (5) document and correlate specialized indigenous ecological knowledge with Western science

(e.g., spawning periodicity), and (6) carry out a longitudinal analysis of marine harvest patterns (1994-2004).

The overarching management goals are to conserve and protect Western Solomon Islands biodiversity by assisting customary resource owners to meet their development needs and to protect their natural resources in a manner that is locally viewed as socially and economically appropriate. We are assisting local communities to establish permanent community-based Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), temporal “no-take” zones (spatio-temporal refugia), and other management initiatives in the Roviana and Vonavona Lagoons. These projects do not focus exclusively on conservation, but also work toward local developmental needs. Developing small-scale economic enterprises is compensating for the income that rural people will lose by not selling marine resources harvested from the closures. The economic assistance provided to local communities includes infrastructural projects such as a clinic and the refurbishing of local schools, and cash-generating initiatives including sewing, aquaculture and balsa planting. Capacity-building workshops that include local authorities, provincial government officials and members of WWF-Solomon Island are organized. These are designed to integrate all relevant stakeholders in monitoring and enforcing management initiatives and ensuring the long-term performance of the cash enterprises. In addition, educational capacity-building is targeted through: (1) producing an environmental dictionary for the purpose of environmental education at the local, national and international levels, (2) including local high school and university students in research and monitoring activities, and (3) providing one or two scholarships to Solomon Island students to study abroad. Recently a field school in ethnographic and marine science methods was set up in Roviana.

The project’s preliminary research results reveal a more realistic view of contemporary demographic, economic, social, political and ecological transformations of common-property institutions; facilitate a better understanding of the relationship between indigenous and Western ecological epistemologies; and allow a longitudinal analysis of human foraging strategies and their impacts on regional marine ecosystems. The project also generated a successful pilot project combining the temporal closures of shell beds with a women’s sewing project. This was established in July 1999 and extended in 2000, 2001, and 2002. In addition three other marine protected areas were established in 2002. Other management regimes are currently being designed and negotiated with Roviana and Vonavona communities.

[Ed. comment: This write-up was prepared by Shankar Aswani, Dept. of Anthropology & Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Marine Science, University of California Santa Barbara.]

URL: <http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/faculty/aswani/macarthur/>  
Email: [aswani@anth.ucsb.edu](mailto:aswani@anth.ucsb.edu)

## 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* website, if not otherwise mentioned. See the *CBNRM Net* website 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.]

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