

Community-Based Natural Resource Management

In May 2002, an international watershed management workshop was held in Ithaca and upstate New York, with support from a grant from the Ford Foundation, bringing together CIIFAD partners in Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Indonesia and the Philippines to share experiences and interact with U.S. counterparts in NGOs and local government bodies in the Finger Lakes region. There were also significant steps made toward institutionalizing CBNRM in Ghana with local government, NGO and community partners there.

Many of our CBNRM efforts have a watershed focus, as seen from the reports on our activities in Ethiopia, Ecuador, Kenya and Philippines and Central America. These build upon CIIFAD work on Integrated Watershed Analysis and Management that started in 1993-94. Parallel CBNRM efforts with more of a landscape focus are ongoing in Ghana, Madagascar, Philippines, and China.

An international workshop on "Watersheds and Communities" was held at Cornell, May 5-14, 2002, with most of the time spend outside Ithaca and in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. The workshop, supported from a Ford Foundation grant, brought together teams of researchers and practitioners who are involved in active watershed management programs in Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Indonesia and the Philippines. Participants synthesized lessons learned from comparisons of experience across national settings and formulated priorities for research and program development. Also participating were watershed management specialists, local government officials, citizen leaders, and extension educators from the Finger Lakes region where visits to ongoing watershed and ecosystem management programs were made.

In June 2002, Frederick Addison (Regional Planning) finished his PhD thesis based on CBNRM action-research carried out in Ghana, beginning with local experimentation in 1998 and 1999. This was done in with cooperation from World Vision and other NARMSAP partners. Communities in the Greater Afram Plains and in the north and south of Ghana have engaged in resource inventorying and evaluation exercises, leading to the development of plans for local resource management that can be supported

by local authorities, both traditional and modern. Addison documented this process as he promoted it, gaining the interest and endorsement of the Minister of Lands, who is the national authority under whose jurisdiction such activities fall. This initiative is being followed up with support from our grant from the Hilton Foundation.

In Madagascar, George Rakotondrabe (CIIFAD/LDI) led our work with communities in the Moramanga region to introduce legally-sanctioned responsibilities for community resource management. Nine contracts have been signed between communities and the Ministry of Water and Forests, conferring legal ownership and management rights for 6,120 hectares of forests and wetlands to local communities. Nine more contracts should be finalized by June 2003. This process, supported under the Landscape Development Interventions project of USAID, is setting precedents for implementation of a government policy that supports CBNRM but that is difficult to get established through usual government channels. With some effective working models, we expect that this delegation of responsibility can become more widespread in Madagascar. In the Philippines, Ed Sabio's work on the Landcare movement there also added to knowledge about the institutional aspects of CBNRM.



Participants in CBNRM consultations in Ambatondrazaka where natural resource management rights and ownership have been transferred to communities around Lac Alaotra.