

The International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) 2002 Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

The 9th Biennial Conference of the IASCP is scheduled to be held during the period of 17 – 21 June 2002 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The IASCP is an association of scholars and practitioners with an analytic focus on the management and use of common property resources, including institutional, political, economic, ecological, cultural and historical factors which influence common property arrangements.

Call for Papers

Practitioners, academics, scholars and anyone interested in the study of common property issues and globalisation are invited to participate in the conference. IASCP encourages interested people to submit panel, individual paper and poster abstracts not exceeding 500 words by no later than October 1st 2001 to the Secretariat at the following e-mail address; iascp@cass.org.zw. Final papers should be submitted by April 1st 2002 in Microsoft word or word perfect as an e-mail attachment.

Conference Theme: ‘The Commons in an Age of Globalisation’

Globalisation is a pervasive characteristic of the new millennium and highly topical in terms of the attention now being given it in the social and ecological sciences. It is seen as the latest stage of a process where technological, economic, ecological, cultural and military trends, traditionally observable on a geographically limited scale and scope, are extended to the entire globe, leading to the emergence of new players with new and different (power) relationships among them. For the ‘developing world’, the asymmetrical power dimensions of these relationships are of particular relevance, not only in terms of the cultural and conceptual hegemony associated with globalisation.

The conference theme should be addressed from a broader perspective, not restricted to natural resources management, but to include issues of governance, economic systems and hidden values, tourism and global ideology. The central concepts of cultural diversity, marginalisation, and globalisation deserve attention in this global debate. There are issues of diversity and uniformity, scale issues and nested hierarchies that globalisation as a concept implies which ought to be addressed. Under globalisation, whose interest does the state serve and what are the related implications on traditional resource and intellectual property rights? A major challenge is the use of practical cases that offer practical solutions to the global debate on globalisation and the commons.

Sub-themes

1. Globalisation, Governance and the Commons

Structure, organisation and relationships would be foci for this sub-theme. How do governance perspectives, e.g. Regime Theory and Global Governance, affect Common Property Theory? The nature of governance, the centre-periphery relations, both at sub-national and supra-national levels and the shifting role of the nation state and issues related to Common Property under globalisation should receive attention. The match/mismatch of jurisdictional scale with ecological and functional scale should also be examined.

2. Globalisation, Culture and the Commons

Culture has been a relatively unexplored factor in common property scholarship. As such, globalisation provides a rich palette on which to examine the relationship between culture and commons management and use. What role does a deep understanding of culture and globalisation play in common property management and use? Concepts of stewardship, inter-generation equity and sustainability, cultural homogenisation will be examined.

3. “Protected Areas” in Constituting the Commons

The “Protected Area” (PA) approach has been one of the two “mainstream” strategies for conservation (the other being species conservation). For urban and industrialised societies it remains a principal mode of the use of nature, and is held out as a paradigm for the developing world. In Africa, its impact on land use and state appropriations of nature has been profound. PA advocates have begun to reach out to more people-centred approaches but this initiative has had little impact from social scientists and an ecological perspective. Papers in this sub-theme are expected to link up local-level issues with globalisation and explore the linkages of PAs and

development programs in comparison to people. There is need to rethink protected areas in the age of globalisation by going beyond wildlife resources.

4. Land/Water and Resource Tenure and the Commons in an Era of Globalisation.

Land/water tenure has long been an important issue for common property scholarship because common property regimes are always imbedded within wider sets of property relations. Globalisation has introduced new pressures into national and local contexts. What form does land/water reform and resource tenure take under globalisation and what impact does this have on CPRs? Examine how globalisation impacts on existing forms of tenure and the form of integration between customary law, traditional authority, gender and statutory law. In what ways do all these encompassing regimes of access and entitlement to resources help to define the character of specific arrangements for the use of common property resources? Pay particular attention to promotion of equality in access to resources for all citizens, decentralisation/devolution of resource management and increasing stakeholder involvement in resource management. What is the effect of such measures in facilitating the improvement of livelihoods of rural poor and to what extent are equity issues addressed?

5. New Analytic Tools for Common Property Resource Management

The past two decades have witnessed technological improvements and the increased use of computer applications (GIS, Remote Sensing, internet and satellite imaging) designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, and analysis of spatially referenced data for solving resource management problems, among others. What role does technology play and what factors inhibit the use and application of these new analytic tools for Common Property Resource management and use? Issues of cost and access to technology, data sharing and standardisation for different users and ethical considerations are key.

6. Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Integrity of Commons and Emerging Regimes of Intellectual Property Rights in a Globalising World.

The meaning of indigenous remains contested, but however it has implications on issues to do with time, place-specific and personal experiences of particular people within given cultural settings. Case material should highlight social differentiations in common pool resource management, the role of indigenous knowledge systems and their contribution to the future integrity of the commons (e.g. the Aborigines as a distinct ethnic group). How does the social organisation of knowledge systems, indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property rights impact on the sustainable use and management of the commons? International conventions, bio-piracy issues, the role of diverse knowledge systems and prospects for sustainable natural resource management ought to be discussed.

7. Trans-boundary natural resource management and the commons

Co-operation across boundaries that enhance the management of natural resources for the benefit of all stakeholders (TBNRM) has of late come into the limelight because of increased competition over natural resources by users of various levels; community, national, regional and international. What form should policy making, legislation, laws and governance between national boundaries under globalisation take for effective co-management of CPRs? The TBNRM perspective calls for the creation of common policies, legislation, laws and governance that are in harmony.

Detailed information on the theme and sub-themes can be accessed on the IASCP website; <http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/2002.html> , while hard copies of the same can be requested from:

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