# INFORM

Information e-bulletin on Participatory Forest Management



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Published by

### **RUPFOR**

Resource Unit for Participatory Forestry Winrock International India www.winrockindia.org

#### **VIEWPOINT**

Welcome to the first issue of INFORM, the electronic bulletin on participatory forest management, published quarterly and distributed free by RUPFOR (Resource Unit for Participatory Forestry), set up with support of the Ford Foundation at the Winrock International India (WII) office. By disseminating information on various issues of participatory forestry in India, INFORM will establish the vital link between policy makers and the field. Our aim is to make this newsletter interactive so that the exchange of ideas and knowledge in this area is promoted. Therefore, we will focus not only on issues that are general to participatory forestry management in India, but also debate and address emerging/evolving issues in this field.

To begin with, in the section "In Focus" we present a case study on Madhya Pradesh's Lok Vaniki initiative, an attempt to frame a comprehensive policy for forestry outside government forests. The case study highlights how the current system of Joint Forest Management (JFM) cannot exist in vacuum, and that policies pertaining to non-forest lands have a direct bearing on JFM, too. Moreover, considering that over one-eighth of our forest area is already under JFM, the focus has to shift from simply increasing the area under JFM to consolidating it in areas where it has been initiated.

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Another common concern among stakeholders of participatory forestry is the issue of "continuity". As several projects under which JFM was supported in early days draw to a close, novel ways of supporting the programme have to be found. The Andhra Pradesh government has started one such initiative by involving a private sector company, which has become controversial especially considering the role of corporate/private sector in JFM. While some feel it is a positive development that will help in making JFM sustainable, others feel that it is simply a ploy to allow industry backdoor access to forest land. We feel that it is too early to pass a judgement on this issue and the experiment in Andhra Pradesh should be closely monitored by all those interested in the long-term sustainability of the JFM programme. We welcome your response on the same and hope to contribute effectively to this debate by putting forward all perspectives.

Besides these broader policy level discussions, we also aim to include issues and news directly from the field. From next issue onwards we will introduce a section called "Query and Answer (Q&A)". We welcome you to send in your queries on participatory management, which we will answer, in the subsequent issues.

Sushil Saigal, Co-ordinator, RUPFOR Mamta Borgoyary, Editor, INFORM

#### **HEADLINES**

#### (Current news on participatory forestry)

• Inaugural Brandis-Chaturvedi Memorial Lecture, Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA, India Chapter) on "People's Forest-People's Agency? Ownership and Responsibility for Forests in a Democracy", held on February 23, 2001, New Delhi

This inaugural "Brandis-Chaturvedi Memorial Lecture" was delivered by Mr Peter J. Wood, Vice President, CFA (International) to commence the lecture series constituted in the memory of two eminent foresters – Sir Dietrich Brandis and Mr M.D. Chaturvedi, who have shaped the development of the forestry sector in India. Mr Wood is a distinguished forester who has made significant contributions to the fields of rural development, forestry and agroforestry. He has been closely associated with the forestry sector in India, especially during his tenures with the ICRAF and the DFID. He was the Chairman of the Commonwealth Forestry Association between 1993 and 1997 and currently holds the position of Vice President.

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A copy of his lecture is available with RUPFOR in hard form.

#### Private sector initiatives in community forest management

The Andhra Pradesh government has agreed in principle (G.O. Ms.No.173, EFS&T (For.VI.1) Dept., Dt.7.2.96) for the involvement of industries in supporting the *Van Samrakshana Samiti* (VSS) for setting up of plantations and promoting other agro-forestry related activities in the government forestlands. Industries such as the Reliance group, ITC Bhadrachalam, and Muruguppa Industries have shown interest. Further, for the first time in the country, institutions under JFM will be used as a medium. This has led to mixed reactions from NGOs, environmentalists and the Forest Department. The debate ranges from such concerns as the danger of monoculture vs food security, to apprehensions on the actual beneficiaries.

For more details read Down to Earth, September 15, 2000, page 46. For the detailed Government Order read Van Sahyog, Vol 2, Issue 3, Nov-Jan 2001.

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#### Biodiversity Festival at Dilli Haat held between Feb 7-11, 2001

As part of the National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan, Kalpavriksh, the head of the Technical and Policy Core Group for preparing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, formed by the MoEF, organised a five-day festival in Dilli Haat from February 7-11, 2001. Dilli Haat is a market in south Delhi specially conceptualised to display and sell Indian handicrafts, goods from cottage industries, and environment-friendly products. The festival was organised to celebrate the diversity of life and cultural values linking mankind with nature. Varieties of organically grown food from different parts of the country, street plays, puppet shows, folk music and dance, as well as workshops where one could learn vegetable dying and making puppets out of waste material, were special attractions at the festival, which was organised with support from Winrock International India and the Ford Foundation.

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#### • Forests get a new lease of life in Uttaranchal

The state forest department of Uttaranchal has welcomed the government's move to grant magisterial powers to forest officers and sought an early revamping of the forest beat system if greenery is to be restored.

For more details read the News-watch India section of Wastelands News, Vol XVI No. 2

#### • Supreme Court rules out state's right to denotify reserve forests

The Supreme Court has restrained all state governments and Union Territories from denotifying any area inside the 526 national parks and sanctuaries created under the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, till further orders.

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#### **SPECIAL REPORT**

#### MoEF's INITIATIVES IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

(Contributed by Sushil Saigal and Mamta Borgoyary)

#### • JFM cell formed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests

In response to a long-standing demand for creation of a nodal agency for JFM at the national level, in August 1998 the Ministry of Environment and Forests extended the scope of work of the Forest Fire Division within the Ministry and renamed it the Forest Protection Division. Simultaneously, a separate JFM Monitoring Cell was also created within this Division. This Cell's mandate is to monitor the impact of the JFM programme in the country. As per MoEF's direction, JFM Nodal Officers have also been appointed by different State Forest Departments, who are responsible for liasing with MoEF and others on JFM issues.

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The JFM Monitoring Cell has taken a lead during the last two years and facilitated the constitution of several committees in MoEF to look into different aspects of the JFM programme. A Standing Committee on JFM was constituted in November 1998, for two years, to advise the ministry on JFM matters. Apart from the Ministry and Forest Department officials, members from NGOs and research institutes were also drawn. Further, a committee to prepare JFM monitoring formats at all levels (division, state and national) was constituted in November 1999. In 2000, a second committee was created to evaluate the JFM monitoring issue in detail and produce an action plan. This committee is likely to submit its report shortly. A 28-member

JFM network representing different stakeholder groups such as the MoEF, State Forest Departments, national NGOs, grassroots NGOs, donor agencies, research organisations and training institutions will advise various agencies engaged in JFM activities and help access constant feedback from stakeholders for more effective policy formulation.

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(For more information on the standing committee, the network committee members and the terms of reference, visit site www.iifm.org/databank/jfm/jfmcell.html)

So far, two meetings of the JFM Network have been organised – one in July 2000 and the second in October 2000. The JFM Network has also suggested some change in the February 2000 guidelines for strengthening JFM, besides expansion of the Network membership to include representatives from grassroots federations of community groups, the Planning Commission, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Tribal Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions and subject specialists such as economists. A vision statement for the Network is currently under preparation. RUPFOR acts as the secretariat network and provides a demand responsive service to the network.

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# SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 2000 'GUIDELINES FOR STRENGTHENING JFM,' ISSUED BY MOEF

**Legal identity:** All JFM groups in the country should be registered as "Societies" under the Societies Act in order to have a proper legal identity.

**Involvement of women:** Half of the general body and one-third of the executive committee members should be women.

**JFM in good forests:** JFM should be extended to good forest areas (except protected areas) though the maximum area per JFM group should be limited to 100 hectares and maximum revenue from the final harvest to 20 percent.

**Microplans:** In all new Working Plans, a JFM Working Circle should be introduced. In case of the existing Working Plans, special orders may be issued by the State Forest Department to facilitate implementation of JFM microplans.

**Conflict resolution:** Multi-stakeholder Working Groups should be constituted at the State and Division levels to resolve any conflicts arising during the course of implementation of JFM.

**Self-initiated forest protection groups:** The existing self-initiated forest protection groups need to be identified, recognised and registered.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Systematic monitoring of the JFM programme should be undertaken every three years at the Forest Division level and every five years at the state level.

#### **IN FOCUS**

#### (Interesting/emerging issues on participatory forestry)

(Contributed by Sushil Saigal based on a detailed case study of "Lok Vaniki" prepared by Prof S. Raghavan, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for Ecotech Services, New Delhi, and International Institute of Environment and Development, London. For more details, contact: sreesh@iifm.org)

#### Lok Vaniki (People's Forestry): A New Initiative in Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh government has started a major initiative in the form of *Lok Vanik*i (People's Forestry) programme to popularise forestry outside designated government forests. The state already has more than two lakh private forest owners, each owning more than an acre of forestland. However, these forest owners generally neglect their forest patches as they provide little revenue. This is primarily because the procedures for felling and disposal of trees from private forests (as given in the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code) are very cumbersome and time consuming. As a result, even the sale value of the land carrying these forests is also quite low.

While private forests in the state have been virtually 'locked up' due to restrictive legal and policy frameworks, the gap between supply and demand of forest products has been increasing rapidly over the years. While on one hand this has put the government forests under tremendous pressure leading to their degradation, on the other a number of forest-based industries have closed down due to raw material shortage. In order to correct this imbalance and to promote tree planting on non-forest lands, the state government conceptualised a scheme called *Lok Vaniki* (people's forestry) in 1999. The main objectives of the scheme are scientific management of private forests and promotion of tree cultivation on marginal lands, which are currently lying barren. These objectives are to be achieved by making tree farming attractive to landowners by providing a suitable legal, institutional and market environment. The two main components of the Lok Vaniki scheme are (1) increasing production outside the government forests and (2) creation of an institutional framework for managing, supervising and monitoring forestry on non-forest lands.

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Production will increase when restrictions over the existing private forests are removed and new plantations encouraged. The farmers can make such land productive without much investment. New commercial plantations on private and revenue wastelands through individuals, associations, cooperatives and companies are to be encouraged. Forests on government land outside the control of the Forest Department are proposed to be handed over to the Panchayats, which at district, block and village levels would be empowered for approval of management plans, sanctioning of harvesting of trees, and collection of tax on revenue generated by forestry activities.

The proposal for the Lok Vaniki scheme was presented to the Madhya Pradesh government in June 1998. Cabinet approval was accorded on April 24, 1999, and a decision taken to implement this scheme on a pilot basis in four districts viz Dewas, Raigarh, Siddhi and Damoh and later extended to three more districts. A Lok Vaniki cell has been created to implement the scheme.

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Amendments in the provisions of several Rules/Acts might be necessary to bring about proper legal environment for private forestry in the state. Since it may be difficult to amend so many Acts together, a new draft legislation has been prepared, called the 'Madhya Pradesh *Lok Vaniki Adhiniyam* (Tree-clad area management).' Senior Secretary-level administrators are currently considering this draft, the final form of which will be put up before the State Cabinet for consideration.

The *Lok Vaniki* scheme proposes to organise all farmers having interest in private forest into district farmers' associations. These associations would then be organised into groups based on what they producing, such as bamboo, timber, etc. The state government has approved the setting up of an Institute of Chartered Foresters to assist private forest farmers in making technically sound management plans. The chartered foresters will be an independent body of professional forestry specialists who would offer their services to the farmers for a fee.

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#### **PROFILE**

# (Profiles of organisations/institutions/individuals with innovative contributions to participatory forestry)

(Contribution from Neeraj Peters, based on Extracts from an yet to be published study on "Community Forest Management in Nayagarh, by Ajai Rai and Santosh Passi," conducted for WWF-India, New Delhi, 1999)

#### Community Forest Management in Nayagarh

Though forest protection by villages in Nayagarh district started in late 1960s and early 1970s, the process picked up momentum in the late 1970s, when scarcity of forest produce became a major problem in a number of blocks in the district. During that time, villagers started relating forest destruction with the problems faced by them in agriculture as well. In early part of the same decade, there were scarce rains for three consecutive years. Local habitants blamed it on the destruction of forests.

The process was strengthened and sustained by the emergence of *Brukshya O Jeevana Bandu Parishad* (BOJBP) in 1982, when 22 villages situated around Binjhgiri and Malati hillock came together and formed a single organisation to protect the forest and rehabilitate the hillocks. Over the years, villages in different clusters around the district adopted the 'BOJBP' approach to organise themselves so that they could protect large areas of forests. These cluster-level apex organisations are commonly referred to as Sister Organisations (SOs), named so to highlight their independent status as well as institutional linkages with BOJBP. Over the last 15 years, BOJBP has played an important role in influencing and giving a formal shape to the forest protection movement in the district.

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At present there are 24 such SOs covering 369 villages. Additionally, another 13 villages were in the process of getting constituted, while one of the earlier efforts (*Udvid Bandhu*, Khatia) had broken down. These SOs are dynamic and would require some time to stabilise. Besides these

SOs, there are villages, which are not involved with any cluster level forum, and are functioning as independent forest protection committees (FPCs). In 1993, there were 23 FPCs in BOJBP's area of operation. In early 1997, altogether 19 such committees could be identified. In the last four years, a number of FPCs joined some apex forum or the other. While some villages dissociated themselves from the cluster level organisations and started functioning as independent FPCs, a few broke down and stopped protection. At present, 24 such committees are operational under the *Mahasangha* banner.

The primary role of SOs is to protect a large patch of forest effectively. Most of these regional confederations have emerged to protect Reserve Forests – Sullia, Ratnamala, etc. In some forums, only immediate neighbouring villages around the forest are involved, but in most cases peripheral villages are also included in the cluster organisation. The thumb rule is to include villages that are traditionally dependent on the patch (it generally excludes small townships). Sometimes a particular village has membership of more than one cluster level organisation.

Within these cluster level forums, broadly four different situations are found:

- Villages which are protecting two patches of a forest, one independently and the other as partners in the cluster forum. There is a separate committee to supervise and manage the protection of the patch being independently protected by them;
- Villages which are independently responsible for protection of a patch of forest and enforce
  their sole right to access, but have joined hands with the neighbouring villages to constitute
  an apex forum to resolve conflicts over theft and support each other against outside
  pressure;
- Villages jointly protecting a block of forest as members of an apex forum, but have informally been allocated the responsibility for different patches of the block.
- Villages involved in joint protection of a patch of forest and contributing to protection efforts collectively.

The SOs, in the form of regional confederations, have emerged out of a different process over the last 15 years, and also present a diversity in the way they are organised. The absence of any external intervention or imposition manifested itself in the lack of uniformity in the structure and type of institutions, which constitute the *Mahasangha*.

#### **REVIEW**

#### (Critical reviews of books relevant to participatory forestry)

Old Roots, New Shoots: A study of Joint Forest Management in Andhra Pradesh By: C.S. Rangachari and S.D. Mukherji Series Editors: Kinsuk Mitra and Doris Capistrano

(Contributed by Mamta Borgoyary)

Often termed as the "successor of political economy", the branch of New Institutional Economics (NIE) is gaining recognition in all platforms as a stream that offers useful approach to the understanding of natural resources and their use and management by societies.

Economists have used various techniques to study the primary production systems such as fisheries and forestry. However, very little is available on how natural resource management deals with developmental issues in a policy and public administration context – especially those affecting equity. **Old Roots, New Shoots...,** the first publication in the Winrock-Ford Book series in Forestry, is a pioneering attempt to fill this gap by discussing in detail one such state initiative in the context of IFM in Andhra Pradesh.

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The approach uses the theoretical backup of NIE to present this case study from the perspective of a policy advisor, administrator or manager. The book contains nine very useful chapters. It starts with the historical background to the issue of degradation of natural resources, both generally and especially in the context of India. It then traces some of the traditional Indian vision of and approach to conservation, and goes on to explain how some of the primary sectors like water and land have been managed traditionally in India. Using the theoretical set-up of NIE, the authors attempt to explain the changing paradigms of resource use in India. The following chapters then focus on the emergence of JFM in Andhra Pradesh.

The case study of JFM as existing in Adilabad (district in Andhra Pradesh) is analysed critically and discussed within the context of NIE. Lastly, the authors highlight two important factors that they claim shall facilitate the success of JFM policy and implementation. These are (a) top level commitment, at both political and official levels and (b) process transparency. Besides, they strongly opine that JFM is a programme that needs to be tailored to local conditions – cultural, institutional, and geo-climatic, and that central guidelines can play an effective but limited role in its success.

Overall, this study can be considered to be an interesting and an important contribution to understanding the emerging issues in natural resource management.

For copies of the book, write to: Editor, Inform Winrock International India 7 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar New Delhi 110057, India Tel: 6142965; Fax: 6146004 Email: mamta@winrock.ernet.in

### INDEX

#### (List of recent articles, papers and journals in the area of participatory forestry)

BOOKS AND ARTICLES	
Negi, Neeraj Kumar, (2001)	"What makes people protect forests." Wastelands News, Vol XVI No 2, Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi
TERI 2000	Green Beginnings: Joint Forest Management in Jhabua, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi
D'Silva Emmanuel and B. Nagnath, (1999)	"Local People Managing Local Forests: Behroonguda Shows the Way in Andhra Pradesh, India." Asia Forest Network, Working paper series, No 3
Chatterji, A., (1999)	"Forest reform in India." Earth Island Journal 14(3): 29-30
Aizpurua, Josemari, (2000)	Property Regimes and Exploitation of the Forests. An Economic Analysis: The Case of Spain, Universidad Publica de Navarra Spain, Paper presented in the 2000 IASCP conference
Andersson, Krister, (2000)	"Alternative Design for an International Forest Carbon Sequestration Regime." ACT, Indiana University USA, Paper presented in the 2000 IASCP conference
Reid, C. Patrick, (undated)	Handbook for Preparing and Writing Research Proposals: Training Material to Enhance Skills for Preparation of Competitive Research Proposals in Forestry Issues. University of Arizona, USA. For more details on the handbook, go to <a href="http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/spdc/spdcpublges.htm">http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/spdc/spdcpublges.htm</a>
<u>Journals</u> Jan Aranya	A new quarterly dealing with issues related to community involvement in forest management in the state of Himachal Pradesh (HP). Published by the HP Forest Department, it is available, both, in English and Hindi.  Contact: Vasant Saberwal, Moving Images, D-3/3425, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110070.  Tel: 011- 6893384. Telefax: 6124317.  Email: moving@vsnl.com  Website: www.movingimagesindia.com
Van Sahyog	Quarterly JFM network newsletter published by the Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi, email: <a href="mailto:spwd@vsnl.com">spwd@vsnl.com</a>

### IN-SITE

### (List of participatory forestry related websites)

Institute/Organisation and website address	Brief note on the contents of the site
University of Georgia www.forestry.uga.edu	This website of the Warnell School of Forest Resources provides information on the institutes programmes, projects, training courses and other relevant events. Its research section offers information on research activities of the institute and available publications.
International Forestry Resources & Institutions Research Programme (IFRI) www.indiana.edu/~ifri International Institute for Environment	Find information on the various activities of the International Forestry Resources and Initiatives- its research programmes, training courses, publications and links to other relevant sites.  Find information on forestry and land-use programme of IIED
and Development <u>www.iied.org/landuse/index.html</u> World Resource Institute <u>www.wri.org/forests/index.html</u>	(research activities, publications, events, etc).  Find information on the thematic area of forests of the World Resources Institute, detailed information on its publications, facts and figures, recent news releases on forestry, and brief
Rural Development Forestry network www.odi.org.uk	descriptions of projects on forestry.  This site provides information on all activities of the Rural Development Forestry Network of the Forest Policy and Environment Group, Overseas Development Institute. It also provides full access to a number of papers on forestry issues (specifically on community forestry).
Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM databank) www.iifm.org/databank/jfm/jfm.html	This page has been jointly set up by the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), and the Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) on joint forest management. Contains very relevant information on all aspects of JFM, starting from the historical to the legal.
Tata Energy Research Institute www.teriin.org/jfm/links.htm#directory	A page housing the various publications of the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), describes the major programmes and projects on forestry (especially JFM).
Annotated bibliography on Ethnoforestry www.forestguru.com Davidson and Alternatives IEM databases	Created by Deep Narayan Pandey and Niraj Kumar, this site provides a detailed annotated bibliography on ethnoforestry.
Development Alternatives JFM databases (DAINET-JFM)  www.jfmindia.org	Find here detailed information on JFM in India, starting from the various resolutions on JFM to upcoming events and programmes. The site also lists some important readings in this area.

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#### LOOKOUT!

(List of upcoming events, workshops, announcements, conferences and training courses)

#### **CONFERENCES**

The 9th Biennial Conference of the IASCP, to be hosted by The Centre for Applied Social Sciences, University of Zimbabwe, on June 17 -21, 2002, at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

**Conference Theme:** The Commons in an Age of Globalisation

**Conference Sub-themes:** 

- Globalisation, Governance, and the Commons
- Globalisation, Culture, and the Commons
- Land Reform and the Commons in an Era of Globalisation
- GIS and Remote Sensing as Analytical Tools for Common Property Resource Management.

All inquiries regarding the 9th Biennial conference should be directed to:
Dr Phanuel Mugabe, Director of CASS
Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS)
University of Zimbabwe
PO Box MP 167

PO Box MP 167 Mount Pleasant Harare

Zimbabwe Pmugabe@cass.org.zw

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# The Youth Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development will be held in Borgholm, Sweden, from May 23-27, 2001.

For information, contact Camilla Funke at camilla.funke@lsu.se or visit <a href="www.eu2001.se/eu2001/calendar/">www.eu2001.se/eu2001/calendar/</a>

# ECOSUD 2001, The Third International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development, is from June 6-8, 2001, at Alicante, Spain

ECOSUD 2001 will be held in Alicante, Spain. The conference will provide a forum for presentation and discussion on recent work on engineering and modelling aspects of ecosystems and sustainable development. The aim is to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary communication amongst scientists, engineers, economists and professionals working in ecological systems and sustainable development. Emphasis will be given to those areas that will most benefit from the application of scientific methods for sustainable development, including the conservation of natural systems in developed and developing countries. Special sessions are being planned to focus on research in ecological modelling, socio-economic ecology, conservation, management and recovery of endangered and degraded areas, sustainable development, information techniques for development, ecological engineering, health and development. For more information, visit: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2001/ecosud01

#### Seminar on Development and Conservation in Himachal Pradesh

A two-day seminar is being organised on April 20-21 in Shimla on the "Development and Conservation in Himachal Pradesh." Themes that are to be discussed include 'Environmental and Social Impact of Large Development Projects', 'Aspects of Conservation in HP', 'The Unique Case of the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), Kullu', 'GHNP and the Dilemma of Conservation' and 'Towards Reconciliation: Development Paradigm and Conservation Practice'.

Contact: Vasant Saberwal, Moving Images,

D-3/3425, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110070. **Tel:** 011- 6893384. **Telefax:** 6124317. **Email:** 

moving@vsnl.com

Website: www.movingimagesindia.com

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#### TRAINING COURSES

RECOFTC currently offers five training courses on community forestry related topics. Courses use field-tested methodologies and processes in community forestry and build upon experiential learning techniques to provide participants with the necessary skills to carry out community forestry activities.

For more details, go to Course Schedule 2001 in ww.recoftc.org/courses.html

#### 5th National Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights

The 5th National Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights, organised by the Conservation and Livelihoods Network (CLN) is to be held in the Makaibari Tea Estate (MTE), Kurseong, in West Bengal. It is being held from April 8-10, 2001 and is being co-organised by Kalpavriksh and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment – Eastern Himalaya Programme (ATREE-EHP), with assistance from the North Eastern Society for the Protection of Nature and Wildlife (NESPON) and the Makaibari Tea Estate (MTE).

Contact: Pankaj Sekhsaria, at the editorial address below:

Ruchi Pant, ATREE-EHP, Bungalow No 2, Near Airforce Officers Enclave, Bhujiapani, PO Bagdogra, Darjeeling – 734422, West Bengal. **Tel:** 0353 – 550093/551110. **Email:** atree@dte.vsnl.net.in

# International Training Course on "Systemic Approaches in Participatory Forest Management," October 3- 14, 2001, West Bengal, India.

For details, please contact:

Professor S.B. Roy, Chairman and Course Director Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development (IBRAD) 3A, Hindustan Road, Gariahat

Calcutta - 700 029 West Bengal, India

**Tel:** 0091-33-464-3105/7370

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#### **FEEDBACK**

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We welcome you to send us relevant articles/news/events/announcements that you would like to disseminate widely. We are also in the process of starting a working paper series on community forestry; we invite you to send us interesting and innovative papers for consideration for publication under this series. Should you like to unsubscribe, kindly send an empty reply mail with "unsubscribe INFORM" as the subject of the email. You will automatically be removed from our mailing list.

#### **INFORM TEAM**

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