



# The Common Property Resource Digest

No. 29 Published by IASCP in cooperation with Winrock and ICRISAT April 1994

## *Researching Property Rights and Natural Resources*

**Property Rights and the Performance of Natural Resource Systems:** A new research program sponsored by the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics in Stockholm, Sweden. *Contributed by Susan Hanna*

Recent widespread awareness of ecosystem degradation has led researchers to call attention to the property rights regimes under which resources are used. An early response to resource overexploitation was to recommend private property as a remedy. However, more recent research on common property regimes provides evidence that the sustainability of natural resources is not dependent on a single type of property regime. Either sustainability or overexploitation can occur under regimes in which authority is vested with states, communities, or private individuals.

Property rights regimes under which natural resources are managed are affected by several variables, including the ecological characteristics of the resource base, the level of ecological knowledge held by resource users, social and economic objectives, the heterogeneity of users, organizational structures and culture. The property rights literature includes a large number of case studies which provide rich material on the diversity of those variables and the extent to which the various regimes they comprise promote or inhibit sustainable use. However, the analysis and synthesis of case studies into general principles of resource use arrangements has been relatively rare. The state of knowledge remains fragmented and a body of predictive theory is lacking.

## **A Research Program**

A new research program, Property Rights and the Performance of Natural Resource Systems, is beginning to develop a body of predictive theory relating property rights regimes to resource sustainability. Sponsored by the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics in Stockholm, Sweden, the program includes the collaboration of more than 40 international scholars in research projects related to property rights and natural resource use.

During the first program workshop held 2-4 September 1993 in Stockholm, a research agenda was defined within four major areas of program focus:

1. design principles;
2. social and ecological system linkages;
3. transboundary resources;
4. technological development and technology transfer.

The four program areas are broadly defined and represent research needs and opportunities extending to resources worldwide.

## **Design Principles**

Fundamental to property rights regimes are the principles of good design. Which design structures and processes promote sustainability? How are conservation and allocation decisions treated under different designs? How do property rights evolve and adapt? How resilient are various management regimes in different contexts? Many of the principles guiding the design of property rights regimes derive from the same mechanisms by which ecological systems are described: resilience, adaptation, and evolution.

Market mechanisms such as tradeable individual quotas are currently being promoted for the allocation of many natural resources. Although such mechanisms may represent the efficiencies of the market in directing use rights toward their highest economic value, the question remains whether the same systems may be designed in ways which also promote social equity, ecological resilience, and stewardship.

The nature of cooperation and its contribution to sustainability is also a subject for investigation. How do management regimes design for cooperation and use it effectively? What forces contribute to cooperation's resilience and its collapse? Given ecological variability, an adaptable property rights regime may be necessary to allow concurrent adaptability in cooperative arrangements. In some circumstances, the optimal property rights regimes may be transient ones.

The ability of property rights to evolve within changing economic and political environments may also be critical to resource sustainability. Social norms of resource use play a role in the evolution of property rights regimes. Management regimes may exhibit different degrees of flexibility to changing environments, such as the environment of post-communist Eastern Europe.

### **Social and Ecological System Linkages**

The interface of human systems and ecological systems raises questions of feedbacks. How well adapted are both systems to each other's variability? How are ecological signals transmitted? How well do the human systems process ecological signals, and what mechanisms exist to modify resource use in response to those signals?

A critical analytical need is to quantify the description and characterization of ecosystems and property rights regimes. Ecological and human systems coevolve over time and space. Some paths of coevolution are healthy outcomes

of well-matched ecological and human systems; other paths are pathological outcomes of mismatched systems. Simulating the behavioral characteristics of ecosystems offers one mechanism to explore the linkages between ecosystems and alternative property rights regimes.

The question of the appropriateness of a property rights regime to its ecological and human context is a major issue in property rights function. Property rights regimes which derive from local knowledge and tradition may have more potential for appropriate fit than transplanted regimes. Traditional regimes may contain knowledge forgotten to contemporary users but useful for sustainability. In some cases hybrid regimes may offer the advantage of greater resilience under changing conditions. Property rights regimes which cover a "portfolio" of resources may also have resiliency benefits.

### **Transboundary Resources**

Natural resource systems which cross geopolitical boundaries are especially problematic in the development of sustainable management regimes. Once different government authorities are involved, the process of internalizing environmental benefits and costs to their source increases in difficulty.

Many studies have demonstrated the resiliency of property rights regimes within small-scale systems. The interesting research question becomes how to translate the desirable properties of small-scale systems to transboundary resources in ways which accomplish the same resiliencies. A related question is the extent to which international environmental agreements exhibit characteristics useful for local-level sustainability.

Reconciling the varying goals and objectives of different national interests within a single incentive system poses a difficult design challenge. Additional challenges are posed by the need to measure, monitor and enforce

resource-related actions in different jurisdictions. Conflicts between different geographical, political and economic interests are common in transboundary resources; mechanisms to resolve those conflicts are less well-known.

### **Technological Development and Technology Transfer**

The development of new technology may alter the distribution of rights to resources. New technology may expand the scale of exploitation through lowered costs, or create social costs not absorbed by an individual user. Costs of monitoring and enforcement may be either increased or decreased through the use of technology.

The changes surrounding technological development and technology transfer lead to several research questions. What is the role of technology transfer in changing the effective rate of resource use? Under what conditions are property rights regimes resilient to changes in technology? How do rights to knowledge about technology affect the distribution of resource rights? What is the relation of technological development to productivity of natural resources? To the fertility of a population?

### **Where Next?**

All the research questions mentioned here are the subject of current investigation under the Beijer Institute program. Research efforts sponsored by other sources are addressing related questions. The amount of research relating property rights regimes to natural resource sustainability is increasing rapidly with the spread of ecosystem degradation. There is an immediate need to understand how ecological and human systems work, how they interact through the mechanism of property rights to natural resources, and how effective systems can be designed and implemented. Social scientists working collaboratively with natural scientists have a unique opportunity to contribute to these pressing scientific and policy

problems. Property rights scholars are particularly well positioned to define and shape the emerging research agenda.

*Readers are encouraged to contribute their own thoughts for publication in the Digest. Speak out! We would like a wide range of material from different parts of the world and different CPR contexts. Contributions should range anywhere from a few paragraphs to about 1000 words. Brief comments on this or other material published in the Digest are also welcome.*

## *New Publications*

### **Biodiversity Prospecting: Using Genetic Resources for Sustainable Development**

The genes and chemicals contained in the world's store of biological diversity offer an abundant and virtually untapped supply of raw materials with potentially path-breaking — and profit-making — applications in medicine, agriculture, and other fields. **Biodiversity Prospecting** provides comprehensive and systematic guidelines for establishing effective and equitable schemes for commercializing these genetic resources. The authors outline the types of policies needed to ensure biodiversity's sustainable use, and they present essential guidance on such thorny practical issues as intellectual property rights, research management policies and permits, and the formulation of legal contracts for biodiversity prospecting.

### **Contents**

- A new lease on life
- Costa Rica's conservation program and National Biodiversity Institute (INBio)
- Biodiversity prospecting by INBio
- Contracts for biodiversity prospecting
- Research management policies: Permits

for collecting and research in the  
topics

- An intellectual property rights framework for biodiversity prospecting
- Policy options for scientific and technological capacity-building

for collecting and research in the  
topics

- An intellectual property rights framework for biodiversity prospecting
- Policy options for scientific and technological capacity-building

#### **Bibliographic information**

*Title:* Biodiversity Prospecting: Using Genetic Resources for Sustainable Development

*Publisher:* World Resources Institute, USA; Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Costa Rica; Rainforest Alliance, USA; and African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya. *Publication Date:* June, 1993. *Format:* 341 pages; paperback.

*ISBN:* 0-915825-89-9. *Price:* \$29.95

**Order from:** WRI Publications, P.O. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211. Tel: 410-516-6963, or 800-822-0504.

Review copies may be obtained from Ms. Wendy Wahl, Marketing Assistant, 202-622-2596.  
**Promising Approaches to Tropical Forest Management in Latin America**

A timely 35-minute video, **Promising Approaches to Tropical Forest Management in Latin America**, shows how natural forest management can provide a viable alternative to deforestation in the humid tropics. Through interviews with experts and footage of ongoing community-level natural forest management projects in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Ecuador, the video describes how tropical forests can be sustainably managed for timber and other products. Such use can maintain a high level of biological diversity while providing a competitive economic return to those who would otherwise convert the forest to cropland or pasture. The video is a useful resource for organizations concerned with promoting forest conservation, and an ideal educational tool that

introduces the many ways in which standing forests are valuable. The video, available in English and Spanish, is distributed by the Tropical Forest Management Trust, a private voluntary organization, at \$18 each. Checks should be made to Tropical Forest Management Trust, Inc., 6124 SW 30th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32608 USA. Tel: (904) 331-2007, fax: (904) 331-3284.

## Natural Resource Management in Pastoral Africa

Current research on rangeland ecology suggests that we have less to fear from pastoral land stewardship than was previously thought. On the one hand, the natural environments exploited by pastoralists are generally robust and resilient. And on the other hand, pastoral techniques of land management are not as dysfunctional as was once widely assumed. While regulation of pastoral activity may be necessary in specific circumstances, there no longer exists a broad scientific mandate to control or modify almost every aspect of pastoral land use in order to preserve the environment.

Authored by Roy Behnke. Development Policy Review Vol. 12 (1994), 5-27. Publisher: Overseas Development Institute 1994. Published by Blackwell Publishers, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, UK, and 238 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA.

## Trees, Land, and Labor

Smallholder tree cultivation and management is a common form of land-use in high-potential areas of Kenya. Some practices, such as the planting of trees on field boundaries, are strongly embedded in customary notions of land and tree tenure. Others, such as the planting of black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) in woodlots, are more recent innovations, introduced to produce commodities for domestic and export markets.

This study explores the economic dimensions of tree growing in Kenya, using land-use studies and the results from a household survey in the upper coffee/lower tea zone of Murang'a District. Logistic regression analysis of survey results explored causal relationships, and suggested, for instance, that woodlots are more likely to be established by households which **are** encountering labour constraints. Amongst older households, there are lower demands for income generation as children move away from home, and tree planting is seen as a low-cost means of keeping land productive until it is needed for more intensive crop production. Finally, tree planting is more common on the most steeply sloping parcels. The use of this land for cultivating cash crops such as tea or coffee would be relatively more labour intensive than the cultivation of such crops on less steeply sloping hillsides. In these circumstances, **tree** planting is a rational alternative to the adoption of more labour intensive crops.

*Author:* Peter A. Dewees (1993) World Bank Environment Paper Number 4. Washington, D.C. (\$6.95)

## The 1994 Information Please Environmental Almanac

Information Please Environmental Almanac offers general audiences a comprehensive reference on virtually any environmental concern from toxic chemicals in the home to the management of U.S. public lands to global population growth. Reports and essays plus hundreds of tables, charts, maps, and graphs.

### **Bibliographic information**

*Publisher:* Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston, MA. *Publication Date:* November, 1993  
*Format:* 5-1/4"\*8"paperback; 704 pages  
*ISBN:* 0-395-67742-4. *Sale Price:* \$11.95, plus \$3.00 shipping & handling (Bulk order discounts available)

## Health of the Planet

The George H. Gallup International Institute has just released a report of results from its 1992 "Health of the Planet" survey. Based on personal interviews with over 30,000 citizens in 24 nations around the world, the survey examined a wide range of environmental issues, including sustainable development.

The results reveal a remarkable high level of awareness and concern about environmental problems among citizens of all nations, both rich and poor, as well as less dissensus on the causes and solutions of the problems than is commonly assumed to exist between residents of the rich and poor nations.

Authored by Riley E. Dunlap, George H. Gallup, Jr. and Alec M. Gallup, the 160 page report is available from the George H. Gallup International Institute, 47 Hulfish Street, Princeton, NJ 08542, Phone (609) 921-6200.

Academics and representatives of public interest groups can obtain copies at a discounted price of \$25.00.

## Other Recent Publications

Pranab Bardhan, "Symposium on Management of Local Commons," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Vol. 7, No. 4, Fall, 1993), 87-92.

Elinor Ostrom and Roy Gardner, "Coping with Asymmetries in the Commons: Self-Governing Irrigation Systems Can Work," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Vol. 7, No. 4, Fall, 1993), 93-112.

Paul Seabright, "Managing Local Commons: Theoretical Issues in Incentive Design," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Vol. 7, No. 4, Fall, 1993), 113-134.

## **A New Power Base: Renewable Energy Policies for the Nineties and Beyond**

Authors: Keith Kozloff and Roger Dower  
Publisher: World Resources Institute  
ISBN: 0-915825-79-1  
List price: \$24.95

## **Functions of Nature: Evaluation of nature in environmental planning, management and decision making**

Author: Rudolf S. de Groot  
Publisher: Woltors Noordhoff  
ISBN: 90-01-35594-3 Format: 345 pages  
price: \$48

## **Agricultural Policy and Sustainability: Case Studies from India, Chile, the Philippines, and the United States**

*Editor:* Paul Faeth.  
*Publisher:* World Resources Institute; September 1993.  
Format: 113 pages; Large-format paperback.  
ISBN: 0-915825-94-5  
Price:\$14.95

## *Projects and Activities*

### **Agrarian Studies, Yale University**

An experimental, interdisciplinary Program in Agrarian Studies will be offering four to six Visiting Research Fellowships tenurable from September 1995-96. The Program is designed to maximize the intellectual links between Western and non-Western studies, contemporary work and historical work, the social sciences and the humanities in the context of research on rural life and society. Fellowships range from \$15,000 to \$30,000 per academic year. Fellows must have finished the dissertation and have a fulltime paid position to which they can return. They are expected to reside in New Haven, pursue their own research, and participate in a colloquium series on the broad theme: "Hinterlands, Frontiers, Cities, and States: Transactions and Identities." The deadline for receipt of the first

stage of applications for 1995-96 is January 3, 1995. For more complete information, contact James C. Scott, Program in Agrarian Studies, Box 208300, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8300. FAX (203) 432-3296.

## **World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)**

### **Objectives**

WOCAT is a project that will make a concrete contribution to the global struggle against soil degradation by compiling information on successful soil and water conservation technologies. This information will be differentiated according to regions, agroecological conditions and farming systems, and made available to a global network of users from technicians to environmental strategists and politicians. The information will appear in the form of handbook, maps based on GIS software, and an expert system.

### **Background**

WOCAT is intended as a follow-up to the global assessment of soil degradation (GLASOD). The GLASOD map, completed and published in 1990 by the International Soil Research and Information Centre (ISRIC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), shows that about one-third of the earth's cultivable land is severely affected by soil degradation. Soil degradation constitutes a crisis that threatens the global food supply and must be dealt with from local to national and international levels. Joint actions will have to be undertaken and enabling conditions made more favorable than those that have previously been considered. In order to protect the soil, for instance, economic conditions and land titling must be supportive. In some cases soil conservation requires collective action among

resource users. By making a critical assessment of successful approaches and by supplying a map of technologies implemented to date, WOCAT can present important experiences in soil conservation and provide guidance in implementing sustainable land use systems, particularly in developing countries.

### Summary

WOCAT will be carried out in the period 1993-98 by a worldwide network of voluntary members of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC), in cooperation with numerous other international and national organizations such as UNEP, ISRIC, the EC, the International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) and the FAO. WOCAT will be coordinated by an Inter-institutional Core Coordination Team (CCT) under the direction of the president of WASWC in the Group of Development and Environment at the University of Berne, Switzerland.

### *Call for Papers*

#### The Buffalo Journal of International Law

The Buffalo Journal of International Law is a publication that stresses the application of legal principles to specific international problems. The specific focus of the Journal will change annually, and the choice of that topic will reflect current issues that are important in international law.

The focus of the premiere issue of the Journal is Biodiversity **and** Biotechnology, including the economic, social and political implications of these current challenges in international law. Among the topics which may be addressed as part of the Journal's focus are the following:

New developments in international environmental law

*Ex situ* conservation

*In situ* conservation

Incentives for conservation

Access to biodiversity

Biodiversity exploration

Biosafety

Access to biotechnology

Biotechnology trade

Sharing of biotech benefits

Technology transfer

Intellectual property protection

National sovereignty

Indigenous knowledge

Rights of indigenous peoples

Technical and scientific cooperation

Information exchange

Financial resources and mechanisms

Implementation measures

Convention on biological diversity

Relationships between the convention and other conventions and agreements

Gaps in the convention

Options of protocols

Both text and endnotes of all submissions should be double spaced, with endnotes conforming to *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (15th Edition). Those without access to *The Bluebook* should include detailed information about all sources noted, including the full name of the author, editor and/or translator. Please send manuscripts in duplicate and, if possible, on disk using WordPerfect 5.1 to:

*The Buffalo Journal of International Law*  
University at Buffalo School of Law  
O'Brain Hall, Amherst Campus  
Buffalo, New York 14260  
USA

The deadline for submissions for the January, 1994 issue is **September 1, 1993**. Articles received after this date may be considered for subsequent issues. For any further information, please feel free to telephone the Journal office at (716) 645-6206, or fax to the Journal's attention at (716) 645-2064.

### **Managing Common Pool Groundwater Resources: a Multinational Perspective**

Papers are being solicited for an anthology which will examine varying approaches to the management of groundwater in selected countries. The chapters and nations will represent diverse cultural and political conditions.

Papers should examine the legal, physical or hydrological, cultural, and social conditions surrounding groundwater management in a given country. In addition to summarizing the "success" or "failure" of a given groundwater management regime (and what success means in the context of local conditions) the papers will suggest conditions precedent necessary for improving groundwater management.

One page abstracts, including a short biographical sketch of the author, should be sent, no later than July 1, 1994, to:

Zachary Smith  
Department of Political Science  
Box 15036  
Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86011-5036  
USA  
tel: 602-523-7020  
fax: 602-523-6777  
bitnet: zas@navvax

### **Managing Eco-Tourism: Political, Social and Environmental Impacts**

Edited by Robert Poirier and Zachary Smith

In recent years eco-tourism has become a big business, particularly in the less developed countries of the world. Escorting of tourists into ecologically unique, pristine or previously untouched environments has consequences for the political, cultural and natural environments of host countries. The relatively new activity, eco-tourism, has not been examined by social or natural scientists to any great extent. This anthology of original contributions will provide the first full treatment of eco-tourism and its consequences.

One page abstracts, including a short biographical sketch of the author, should be sent, no later than July 1, 1994, to

Robert Poirier  
Department of Political Science  
Box 15036  
Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5036  
USA

tel: 602-523-6529  
fax: 602-523-6777  
bitnet: poirier@navvax

### *Conferences and Workshops*

#### **International Conference on Ecology and Environment**

**June 20-24, 1994**  
**Drake Bay, Peninsula de Osa,**  
**Costa Rica, Central America**

The Foundation for Primary Forest Protection (FUNBOSPRI) is calling for papers from specialists, organizations and people interested in ecology, environment and related fields.

The goals of the conference are to share experiences, to get perspectives and to discuss problems related with ecology and environment and to join individuals and institutions interested in these topics. The conference will also give you the opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful places of Costa Rica and discuss the ecological problems of the area in order to propose solutions.

The main topics considered at the conference are the following:

- Models for development and planning
- Peaceful uses of nuclear energy and environment
- Quality and environment
- Sustainable development of forests
- Goods and services of forests
- Ecology and education
- Native cultures and ecology
- Ecological experiences

Related topics can be considered. Papers and abstracts should be written in English or Spanish.

*For more information contact:*

Guillermo Guzman

Email: [gguzman@ucrv2.ucr.ac.cr](mailto:gguzman@ucrv2.ucr.ac.cr)

[gguzman@huetar.ci.ucr.ac.cr](mailto:gguzman@huetar.ci.ucr.ac.cr)

Celso Vargas, Dept. of Computer Science, Costa Rica Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 159, Cartago, Costa Rica.

Fax: 506-51-53-48

Email: [vargase@ucrv2.ucr.ac.cr](mailto:vargase@ucrv2.ucr.ac.cr)

## **Making Marine Mammal Management Work: Sustainability and Social Equity in the Coastal Zone**

Sept 21-22, 1994, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

*For more information contact:*

Milton Freeman, Canadian Circumpolar

Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E2 Canada

(fax: 403-492-4682), or Oran Young, Institute of Arctic Studies, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755, USA (fax: 603-646-1279).

## *Short Courses*

### **Course on Modern Concepts of Environmentally Sustainable Development**

10 October - 2 December 1994

Canberra & Gympie, Australia

Forest sector managers in the modern world now find it necessary to update their skills during their working life.

Managers increasingly need to:

- Integrate forestry management with the wider objectives of rural development and national economic plans and strategies. Forestry development often plays a significant role in many rural development initiatives.
- Service projects initiated and funded by large international agencies.
- Adapt to the information revolution, with its resulting increase in the use of computers.

### **Course aims**

Participants in this course will gain knowledge and skills in:

- Identification, design, appraisal, implementation, management and evaluation of all forms of forestry projects, including natural forests, plantations and community forests.

- Planning and management of large-scale plantation projects (an Australian State softwood plantation program will be used as one case study which will be the focus of the first segment).
- Using computers in modern planning and management. Considerable emphasis will be given to the use of computer packages for financial and economic analysis of forestry projects. Emphasis is on actual case studies.

### Course participants

- The course assumes participants have backgrounds in technical aspects of forestry, and that they work (or are intending to work) in a forestry administration agency, or a related forest industry or rural development organization, or are from forestry areas within national economic planning agencies.
- The course requires a reasonable level of competence in the English language. (Pre-course English can be arranged.)
- The course is designed for middle and potential senior level forestry planners and managers.
- The course will best suit those in the 25-40 age group who have some managerial and policy formulating responsibility, but who also retain some technical role in the preparation of projects and departmental budgets.

### Course content

The course begins with an orientation program to assist participants during their stay in Australia. Teaching methods combine lectures, seminars /discussions, practical work, case studies and field studies.

Computing tuition is in small groups, and tutorials are available in other areas as required. Participants are encouraged to interact informally amongst themselves and with staff and forestry students on campus.

For further details contact:

Dr. Ken Shepherd, Manager  
Forestry Division, ANUTECH Pty Ltd  
Canberra 0200, ACT, Australia

Tel: IDD 616 2490617 or 2494713 (daytime)  
2815915 (evening)

Fax: IDD 616 2495875 or 2571433

Tlx: AA62760 NATUNI  
Marked 'Attention ANUTECH'

### Women and Environmental Management: Gender-balance in environmental management

A short course  
presented by ANUTECH PTY Ltd and The  
Australian National University  
7 November - 9 December 1994  
Canberra, Australia

ANUTECH Pty Ltd  
Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies  
National Centre for Development Studies  
Managed by ANUTECH Pty Ltd  
Academic Coordinator: Dr. Valerie A. Brown

### Background

Sound environmental management harnesses the capacities of all members of a community, region or nation-state, both women and men. In particular, women in all cultures and at most times apply their knowledge and skills to using resources sustainably. Women in every country need support in this role as environmental managers.

Planning, resource management and rural development agencies increasingly expect their staff to acquire high-level skills and management capabilities so they can confidently tackle the complex issues of natural resource management and environmental protection.

This course for women and men provides a framework which considers the contributions of all stakeholders in the management of natural resources, with a gender-balance emphasis. Rural and urban environmental issues are included.

*Women and environmental management* will be particularly valuable for resource planners and environmental managers from government and non-government sectors who need to extend or update their skills in gender-balanced resource and environmental management.

#### **Course aims**

- To develop concepts in policy planning and practice for gender-balanced environmental management, within the framework of sustainable development.
- To provide access to skills which will enable course participants to contribute to forward-looking environmental management in their own countries.

#### **Course content**

The course gives insights into the roles and contributions of women and men at different stages of their lives and different levels of resource use in the practice and policy of environmental management through:

- environmental assessment
- environmental management
- conflict management and resolution
- sustainable development

The *Common Property Resource Digest* is published by the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) in collaboration with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and Winrock International. A grant from the Ford Foundation supports publication costs. The opinions expressed in the CPR Digest are those of individual authors, not IASCP, Winrock or ICRISAT.

#### **Editorial Committee:**

David Feeny  
William R. Bentley  
John M. Kerr

#### **Editor:**

John M. Kerr

#### **Managing Editor:**

Ashwani Gupta

Submissions related to ongoing and planned research, news items, opinion pieces, announcements, reviews, suggestions and queries should be addressed to:

Ashwani Gupta  
Managing Editor  
Socioeconomics and Policy Division  
ICRISAT, Patancheru 502324  
India

Fax : 91-40-241239  
Email : cprdigest@icrisat.cgnet

Questions regarding IASCP membership should be addressed to:

Charlotte Hess  
Secretary/Treasurer, IASCP  
513 N. Park  
Indiana University  
Bloomington IN 47408

Phone : 812-855-0441  
Email : hess@indiana.edu

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF COMMON PROPERTY MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION

*Dues:*

\$ 20.00 for persons with annual income above \$ 15,000.

\$ 5.00 for persons with annual income up to \$ 15,000.

*Method of Payment:*

Check on U.S. bank, postal money order, non-U.S. check or other financial instrument, U.S. currency.

Make checks payable to "IASCP".

If you are in a situation where you cannot remit payment by any of the above methods, but wish to continue your membership, please make a brief statement explaining your situation. We expect you will submit payment when your situation changes.

Please clearly indicate your name and mailing address for the *Digest*. Telephone and email information is useful, but feel no obligation if you prefer not to supply such numbers.

We are happy to furnish receipts, but each receipt requires time and postage so please do not request one unless necessary.

Completed forms and other all membership related enquiries should be addressed to:

Charlotte Hess  
Secretary/Treasurer  
International Association for the Study of Common Property  
513 N. Park  
Indiana University  
Bloomington IN 47408

Phone : 812-855-0441  
Email: hess@indiana.edu

**Please send us your announcements of workshops,  
organizations, publications, etc. We will print  
them in the Digest.**

## *Addendum to CPR Digest #29*

### Invitation for Contributions

Cahiers de Sciences Humaines

ORSTOM

Papers are solicited for a special volume on renewable natural resources in developing countries focusing on practices and representations.

The Rio conference (June 1992) confirmed the political challenge represented by an international classification of the natural resources used on a world-wide basis. It put demonstrated opposition between the North and South and the refusal of the southern countries to limit their rights of use of natural resources and accept quotas of agricultural and industrial pollutant emissions. These political behaviors are based on different theories of the relationship between development and utilization of renewable resources. Therefore, the supporters of the capitalization of rights of use (monopolizing and commercializing the "commons": aquatic areas, pasture lands for cattle, forests, etc.) are opposed to the fighters for ecocodevelopment who favor local managements of ecosystems.

We would like to publish a special issue of the Cahiers des Sciences Humaines (ORSTOM 's bilingual review) which would deal with the use of renewable natural resources in developing countries. Considering generally that the literature on this theme seldom tackles the genuine conditions of use of these resources, we would like to focus on the findings of various field studies: aquatic, agro-forestry or pastoral ecosystems, economic growth (in South-East Asia or in Latin America) and economic stagnation or decline (African countries). It is desirable that each case study refers to multidisciplinary discussions concerning the notion of sustainable development. Three questions could be tackled.

#### **1. How should the uses of renewable natural resource be characterized, and what is their role in the preservation of ecosystems?**

These characterizations should emphasize methodological problems, particularly concerning interdisciplinary approaches. They should consider that the use of resources depends on a system of representation of the environment and also on conditions of availability that varies by area. Therefore, the different disciplines of social sciences are invited to participate.

Apart from their characterization, do these uses result from social and ecological control that allows ecosystems to be reproduced, or from a lack of control leading to an inability to resist to **the** introduction of destructive technologies (which does not leave out a "casual" preservation of the ecosystems in question)?

#### **2. To what extent can societies adapt to new constraints to the use of renewable resources?**

The increasing population pressure and the population dynamics lead to adjust representations and the tapping of resources. The same holds true for the generalization of business relations, the policies conducted by the institutionalized powers, and the degradation of ecosystems. Do these changes result in a deregulation or in new systems of representations and new environmental practices?

### **3. Do the uses of natural resources in developing countries overlap those referred to the sustainable development theory?**

The notion of sustainable development covers several disciplines since it draws the attention of researchers in social as well as natural sciences. However, a common characteristic emerges when working with different definitions of this notion: the lack or deficiency of the actual conditions for the use of resources in developing countries. Thus, this work would facilitate filling in a few gaps while participating in the ongoing discussions.

#### **Schedule**

Submissions (title and abstract) must be sent *immediately*. (ORSTOM has requested them before April 1st, 1994, but this announcement will reach readers too late to meet that deadline. Potential contributors should contact ORSTOM to request an extension of the deadline.) A one-page abstract is required by the editor so that he can understand the originality of the contribution. Final papers must be submitted by September 1st, 1994. The maximum length of a paper which must be of 50,000 characters (about 15 typed pages including graphs and maps). Please send contributions to:

Jean-Yves Weigel (scientific editor)  
Cahiers de Sciences sociales  
ORSTOM  
72-74 Route d'Aulnay  
93143 Bondy Cedex  
France  
Fax: 33-1-48 03 77 77

#### **Request for Information**

The Biodiversity Support Program (a consortium of WWF, WRI and TNC) is starting a small program called Peoples and Forests in Insular Southeast Asia. The goal of the program is to strengthen biodiversity conservation by assessing, developing and promoting ways to secure recognition of indigenous peoples' tenure and community based natural resource planning as a means of protecting forests. We are developing a compendium listing existing efforts to map indigenous peoples' territories anywhere in the world. We are also interested in learning about any academic research related to community-based mapping of CPRs.

Please send information to:

Dr. Janis Alcorn  
Biodiversity Support Program  
c/o WWF  
1250 24th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20037, USA  
Fax: 202-861-8324, Tel: 202-861-8313