

# The Common Property Resource Digest

NO. 67 QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF COMMON PROPERTY Dec. 2003

This issue of the CPR Digest examines the IASCP Mission Statement. Developed in 1989, does the statement accurately reflect the mission of IASCP today, nearly 15 years later?

*Charlotte Hess* leads off the CPR Forum making the point that it is time for an update to the IASCP Mission Statement. She argues that IASCP is about more than environmental resources but includes all shared resources, such as electronic ones. Next *Daniel Bromley* commends Charlotte Hess for taking up the issue of revising the mission statement, but he warns us to take care with the important terms we use, reminding us we must define them to use them. Bromley also reminds us that most people in IASCP study human associations to learn, not simply for the novelty of it. *Narpat Jodha* agrees generally to the need for revision of the mission statement terms. He also points out that the IASCP should look to the future and its most significant role of raising social concern for humanity's common pool resources. Next *Elinor Ostrom* agrees wholeheartedly for a change. She suggests broadening IASCP's purpose and tells us to invite practitioners and policy makers to join researchers in thinking about the commons. *Erling Berge* concludes the discussion with further thoughts about the terms we use and the role of local self-governance in the preservation of the commons.

Also in this issue, the IASCP President, Erling Berge, writes to ask members' advice on electing a president. **Enjoy!**

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## CPR FORUM COMMENTARY

### Why the IASCP Mission Statement should be Changed

**Charlotte Hess**  
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**Information Officer, IASCP**

In 2002 I submitted a proposal to the IASCP Executive Council to revise the organization's Mission Statement and, possibly, its goals, in order to more accurately reflect the organization's purpose and intent. In this essay, I discuss the rationale for change and hope to discussion,

The current IASCP Mission Statement reads as follows:

"The International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP), founded in 1989, is a nonprofit Association devoted to understanding and improving institutions for the management of environmental resources that are (or could be) held or used collectively by communities in developing or developed countries."

When this statement was drafted over fifteen years ago, it reflected the new organization's focus on natural resource management issues. The language reflects the drafters' desire to be precise and to acknowledge differences of opinion. The "(or could be)" was added to assuage those members who saw a clear difference between common property and common-pool resources. "Or developed countries" alerted the reader that this organization was not exclusive to the study of resources in developing countries, as the U.S. National Research Council's (NRC) seminal Conference on Common Property Resource

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*Published with support from  
the Ford Foundation*

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Management (Anapolis, 1985) had been. "Held or used" indicated that the drafters understood that there were other types of property rights involved than ownership. Since its inception, IASCP has lead the way in defining the commons as an interdisciplinary area of study. The initial catalyst for the organization's founding was the NRCs Panel on Common Property Resource Management, organized in 1982. The Panel brought together an interdisciplinary group of scholars in order to better understand problems of environmental degradation in the developing world. The chronic drought in the African Sahel region was a primary case. Because of the focus of this Panel, participation in the 1985 Conference on Common Property Resource Management was limited to studies in developing countries. This exclusion had nothing to do with the nature of the commons, but rather with the initial focus of the funding source.

Even though the formation of IASCP in the late 1980s opened up the field to researchers and practitioners concerned with commons resources anywhere in the world, the clear majority of the papers delivered at the first four IASCP conferences (1990-1993) focussed on environmental sectors in developing countries. There were no papers, at that time, on global, urban, information, genetic or any other "new commons."

The language IASCP members use to describe their subject has evolved as well. In 1990 only two of the 44 conference papers used the term "common-pool resources" in their title or abstract, while 23 used the term "common property."

The distinction between common property regimes and common-pool resources has been made repeatedly since the late 80s and subjects are well represented among the membership. Yet it is the term "commons" that IASCP scholars have most consistently used throughout the organization's history. (In our library database there are 198 items with "common pool" in the title; 584 with "common property" in the title; and 903 with the "commons" in the title).

Commons, as a term, is used in various ways. Though often not defined at all, it is often used to refer to open access public goods, our cultural heritage, our shared resources, or universal public goods, such as ideas. Regardless of the type of regime or resource, commons scholars are asking questions about sustainability, efficiency, equity, etc. and are dealing with similar social dilemmas.

The scope of topics has evolved as well. Until 1995 virtually all of the IASCP papers were focussed on environmental sectors or on the theoretical frameworks or models of those sectors. The 1995 conference, with

its theme “Reinventing the Commons,” opened the door to a larger field of commons study: there were four papers on non-environmental commons. By the 2000 conference, there were 28 papers on “new commons” issues (urban, information, patents etc.) and 153 of the 367 papers were concerned with issues in developed countries.

There are many new and emerging areas of commons studies within our membership. When former Secretary-Treasurer Fenton Martin, drafted the first Bibliography

of Common-Pool Resources and Collective Action in 1989, she divided the literature into these sections: Agriculture, Fisheries, Grazing, Land Tenure and Use, Village Organization, Water Resources, Wildlife, Theory, and General. I took over the database in 1993. By 1996, the burgeoning literature required the addition of several new sectors: global commons, urban commons, information and knowledge commons, and “new commons” (examples are tourism, surfing, and budget commons).

Clearly, while our scholarship has been dynamic, evolving and expanding over the

short lifetime of our organization, our mission statement has remained static. From the perspective of my roles as the IASCP Information Officer, webmaster of the IASCP website <http://www.iascp.org>; Director of the Digital Library of the Commons <http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu>; Director of the leading library on the commons housed at Indiana University, I would like to see the association’s mission and goals revised. For example, I would like to include the Mission Statement on the IASCP website front page but find it too exclusionary, vague, and unrepresentative. We need a Mission Statement that explains our unique purpose and focus as it has actually evolved, our extraordinarily rich

and diverse membership, and the common thread in our research and practice.

There are thousands of international associations, thousands of environmental associations, and hundreds of natural resource management associations. What is it exactly that makes IASCP so unique? What functions does this association serve that no other does?

I believe that our Mission Statement should summarize our singular nature and purpose in these ways:

- It should emphasize our collective interest in the commons, common

## **PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT**

**The International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) is a nonprofit Association devoted to bringing together interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners, and policymakers for the purpose of fostering better understandings, improvements, and sustainable solutions for environmental, electronic, and any other type of shared resource that is a commons or a common-pool resource.**

property, and common-pool resources. Its most unique aspect is that it is devoted to the study of jointness, the dilemmas of shared resources, the commons and their complexities. I do not know of any other international organization in the world devoted to this study. The mission statement should be inclusive, rather than exclusive.

- It should expand its focus to all types of commons. Because what we have learned about the management of one type of resource sector may well solve dilemmas in another. The current designation of “environmental resources” is too narrow. I suggest is the substitution

of the word “environment” with the word “shared.”

- Our Mission Statement should make clear that the association is not only interdisciplinary, but also that it welcomes all different types of members: practitioners and policymakers, as well as scientists, scholars, and students.

- If we are going to use the word “institutions” we should define it and translate it into non-academic language.

To attract and retain the growing number of scholars who are studying resources that are also considered commons but do not fit in the environmental sectors, I propose that we revise our Mission Statement as shown in the box.

# CPR FORUM RESPONSE

## Let's Focus on the Performance of Alternative Institutional Arrangements

Daniel W. Bromley

University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Charlotte Hess is to be commended for asking that the mission statement of the IASCP be revised. She raises several issues—our collective interest in the commons, common property, and common-pool resources. From this she focuses on jointness and its associated “dilemmas.” She asks us to consider all kinds of commons, noting that the past focus on environmental resources is too confining. She asks that we augment our commitment to interdisciplinary work by mentioning practitioners and policy makers as well as “scientists, scholars, and students.” Finally she urges us that if we are intent on using the word “institutions” we should define it and translate it into non-academic language.

I certainly agree that the mission statement is a bit frayed around the edges. And I most assuredly support the idea that if we are to use words (institutions, commons, common property) we should define them. This is a project that I have been urging on the IASCP (and all others who will listen) since our first meeting at Duke University. Alas, I must report that this constant pleading has largely been ignored. Not only have most individuals who write on the above topics resisted clear definitions—with the exception of that most unfortunate term common-pool resource—the more egregious problem is that most writers feel free to use these terms to mean different things at different times, often in the same paper.

May I once again say that there is no such thing as a common-pool resource. Scarcity is the central issue here. Without scarcity, either physical or institutional (socially constructed), we would have nothing to do. Given ubiquitous scarcity, and under certain institutional arrangements, a resource (a physical thing) may exhibit socially pertinent “subtractability” and high exclusion costs, but these unwanted effects (traits) are a property of the institutional arrangements associated with that

resource, not with some inherent trait of the resource. To suggest otherwise is to embrace essentialism. What matters for those of us interested in the behavioural responses to scarcity is the social space over which ubiquitous scarcity is manifest. If there is but one owner of a groundwater aquifer (or a forest) then by definition there cannot be a problem of subtractability, nor can there be a problem of exclusion. Physical objects (water, trees, fish, cyberspace, highways) cannot possibly have socially and economically pertinent traits apart from the institutional structure that defines individuals with respect to each other with respect to the physical object under consideration. This explains why I have pleaded, over the years, to focus our attention on the “property” aspects of scarcity and not on the “pool” aspects. Indeed, the word “pool” should be banished from our lexicon. Happily,

the letter “P” in our title refers to “property” and most assuredly not to “pool.” When one focuses on property one focuses on the socially constructed norms, rules, and entitlement regimes that are the proper purview of the behavioural sciences.

Allow me also to bring up a point that I raised in Durham at our first meeting. In my keynote/plenary paper I expressed



*The IASCP Council on the northern tip of Denmark*

concern about an association that identified itself too closely with but one institutional form—common property. Perhaps my concern was (is) spawned by a career spent in close proximity to a few individuals who have devoted their career to the study of agricultural cooperatives. It does not take very long for such individuals, no matter how well and broadly educated, to become advocates for, and defenders of, guess what?—cooperatives. Now I am happy to be regaled with the manifold wonders of cooperatives, and on close inspection I may even be found out to have belonged to various food-oriented cooperatives in my lengthy past. But I am not at all charmed by those who have reached a decision about the optimal institutional arrangement for selling food, or gasoline, or milk, and then devote the remainder of their career trying to convince the rest of us. I would much rather talk to them about why cooperatives work as they do, and what they are not very good at doing. That, I suggest, is a conversation worth having.

# CPR FORUM RESPONSE

## Critical Points for the IASCP on its Mission Statement

**Narpat S. Jodha**

**International Centre for Integrated Mountain  
Development**

Broadly agreeing with Charlotte Hess's views on IASCP Mission Statement, I would like greater reflection of IASCP initiatives and approaches in the Mission Statement. The latter should focus more on clarity and thrust of message rather than economy of words. What I mention below are rooted in my past understanding and future dreams related to IASCP.

The very first thing Mission Statement (MS) should convey is the uniqueness of this organization in terms focussing on a subject (CPR) which has been very much a part of living world but until recently was less known and a marginal issue for mainstream discourse and decision making.

The second unique feature of IASCP is that in place of being a forum for learned societies it is a platform for research, interaction and exchange for diverse groups which range from academics and policy practitioners to community groups and NGOs. IASCP helps in shaping the agenda for several advocacy groups and networks, as well as academics dealing with CPRs.

Third, IASCP, in terms of its approach, scope and activities, is a dynamic and forward looking organization but very much rooted in the practical realities of CPRs – their status and changes as well as their contributions and crises. The dynamic openness of IASCP is reflected in changes in definitions and concepts as well as expansion of scope of its mandated activities in response to rising number of resources with common-pool characteristics and growing knowledge and need to address them. For example the initial focus on environmental resources expanding to include information and electronic space as CPRs.

Openness in terms of responses to diversities of CPRs and diverse stakeholders with diverse perspectives and priorities in regional contexts, is another aspect of dynamic nature of IASCP. For example, the

One final concern: I long for the day when we can purge the word “dilemmas” from our discussions about the joint management of things. Individuals have shown themselves to be quite capable of ruining “their own” water, trees, or rangeland. As I have recently pointed out in a different context, social scientists have, to the best of my knowledge, never used the word dilemma in conjunction with their writings about marriage and the family. Is this not a realm in which two (perhaps more) sapient adults enter into a joint enterprise—each of them with rather firm ideas about what ought to be done in particular circumstances? Why is this not a “dilemma” as that word is so eagerly applied to a village of several households making decisions about an irrigation ditch? We seem to forget that jointness is a property that can be, and often is, constitutive of the going concern instead of something that must be analysed, justified, and seen as problematic. Jointness is only a dilemma if we bring to our scholarship a perverse economic bias that the world consists exclusively of thoroughly atomized hedonists. How odd that an interdisciplinary group, presumably well peopled with sociologists and anthropologists, have remained silent for so long while adjectives such as “dilemma” “drama” and “tragedy” are mindlessly shunted into our conversations when decision making involves more than one (usually male) person.

So for me, the emphasis in the mission statement must be on the following key ideas:

A focus on analysis of the performance of alternative institutional arrangements with respect to a set of widely agreed-upon criteria—cost effectiveness, fairness, sustainability, low transaction costs, inclusion, empowerment, etc. I submit that the IASCP encompasses individuals who are interested in institutional performance and in plausible reasons for assessments of good and bad performance (as defined above). Most of us do not study human associations for the mere novelty of it—we study them to learn which ones work, which ones do not work so well, why those judgments are reached, and what might be done about it.

My proposed Mission Statement:

The IASCP was founded in 1989 for the purpose of fostering analytical scholarship concerning the management and use of social assets that are characterized by scarcity, and whose stewardship leads to outcomes that are of profound importance for social, cultural, and economic goals. The IASCP is a welcoming association of individuals from a range of disciplines and backgrounds. Our common purpose binds us together in the quest for enhanced understanding and advice that will benefit the human condition now and in the future.

regionalisation and decentralization processes that have encouraged regional initiatives and networking to accommodate diverse CPRs in different geographical contexts.

Fourth, IASCP, as revealed by its supportive roles and impacts, has facilitated the interface between

knowledge generation, and action relating to CPRs. This is indicated by rapid growth of research on routine to cutting edge issues relating to CPRs on the one hand and public action including community mobilization, networking and lobbying to promote awareness among stakeholders for influencing public policies and programmes to address CPR issues in different contexts. Examples include: several grass roots level initiatives on CPRs by NGOs and others; CPR workers' participation in academic and policy discourse at national and global levels including as expert advisors.

Fifth, in the long term historical and social context, IASCP's most significant, if less recognized, role relates to raising and sustaining social concern and action for the humanity's common pool resources, which face constant threats from the processes encouraging exclusive ownerships and overexploitation by powerful agents, e.g. the state and markets. Examples here include: information and IT space; nature endowed valuable genetic material and other components of human heritage; pollution free living space etc. This may sound rather abstract at this stage, but this is the real challenge for IASCP in the future, and this clearly distinguishes it from other professional associations.

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*Vernon Smith, 2002 Nobel Laureate for Economics at the IASCP Northern Polar Regional Meeting - The Northern Commons: Lessons for the World, Lesson from the World*

## CPR FORUM RESPONSE

### Let us Broaden Our Purpose

**Elinor Ostrom**

**Indiana University, USA**

Let me support Charlotte Hess's proposed revision of our Mission Statement. It clearly states that the purpose of IASCP is fostering better understanding of how to achieve sustainability for a variety of shared resources. The problems of achieving sustainable governance and management of fisheries, water resources, pasture lands, wildlife, and biodiversity more generally, will continue to be major foci of our work. How to cope with the legal structure of the digital commons is an important emerging subject area and IASCP colleagues are examining puzzles related to this area. Including electronic commons in our Mission Statement lets the world know that we also have something relevant to say about this area of research.

In our fifteenth year, let us officially broaden our purpose and overtly invite practitioners and policymakers to join researchers in thinking about the commons.

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# CPR FORUM RESPONSE

## IASCP's Mission Statement

**Erling Berge**

**President, IASCP**

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Norway**

The story of how IASCP originated is not well known, so reading Hess' account was interesting also for this information. We need a more complete history account some time.

In general I share Hess' views on the development of IASCP and will support the proposal that we make an effort to fashion a more timely expression of our mission. But finding a good wording of this may be difficult. Emphasising one thing and not mentioning another is easily taken as a political statement rather than being an oversight due to limited intellectual capacity and educated limits on interests. So do not read more into what I say subsequently than is there. My agenda is to contribute to finding a wording that is inclusive, precise, and readable.

A tall order? Probably!

First, I think we should reconsider is the term "common pool resource". Most of the "new commons" are not common pool resources in its technical meaning. They are either club resources or public resources. Now, in order to understand and manage common pool resources we need to understand a fair bit about public and club resources also, so in reality a focus on common pool resources does not restrict what we are interested in. But used for telling the world about what we are, it may be read as fairly restricting. In our bylaws this term is not used: "The Association is devoted to understanding and improving institutions for the management of environmental resources that are (or could be) held or used collectively." (Article 1B)

Second, I think we should consider including a reference to "the role of local self-governance" in the adaptive management and preservation of the commons. Policy research for example in environmental economics and much of sociology and political science, will either explicitly or implicitly

develop advice for the wise and benign ruler wanting to maximise the welfare of its people. As we know, due to local variations of resource systems the benign ruler may fail even in the best of circumstances. However, we also know that local self-governance will not be enough in a globalizing world economy: hence "the role of local self-governance" in a system of governance designed for adaptive efficiency. But be aware that emphasising this is a policy statement that will attract those looking for support for local power. On the other hand it should also attract a few persons dissatisfied with the rather exclusive focus on the state in some approaches to resource governance. Even those advocating privatization are focused on the state: only the state can "create" private property against the will of the local community.

Third, and finally, I want to say that I have come to accept the term "commons" as suitably imprecise. Most occasions I have come across the word it does not mean more than something many people (definitely more than a family, but how much more is unclear) want to enjoy individually or jointly. Thus it covers most aspects of resource usage from the open access village pasture by way of world heritage sites to the global biodiversity management. By being precisely inclusive in the symbols it evokes such a word is very useful in a mission statement. Let us use it!

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*Don't forget! The 10th Biennial Meeting of the IASCP  
Oaxaca, Mexico, August 9 – 13, 2004*

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Charlotte Hess

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### GOVERNING THE IASCP: HOW DO WE ELECT A PRESIDENT?

Dear member of IASCP,

I am writing to you by way of CPR Digest to ask your honest advice on a couple of items that have been discussed on and off in the council since I started attending council meetings in 1992. The items are

- Should there be competing candidates for the office of president?
- How secret should the voting for officers be?

Candidates for president and competition for office Democracy depends in a fundamental sense on competition for office. The straightforward conclusion on that stipulation is that also we as a democratic organisation ought to have competition for office.

But if the situation was as simple as that, as you now may suspect, we would not have a discussion about this at all. Let us look at the complications.

Let us first note that the selection of a winner is done by the number of votes. The rational choice by voters is based on the information they have about the candidates. The more connected and cohesive a community is, and the more independent information about candidates there is, the better the voters become at selecting the candidate most attuned to their interests. I do not know, but I do suspect that very few IASCP members know very much about the candidates they are asked to vote for.

It has also been observed that those who are good at running a campaign are not necessarily as good at governing an organisation. Some excel at both, but selection based on campaigning alone will miss out those that are good at governing but lousy at campaigning. It has been said that women tend to fall in the latter category.

From the point of view of the organisation the selection procedure *per se* is uninteresting as long as those selected are reasonably good at running the organisation. Since there is no foolproof way of selecting good governors the next best thing is to rotate them out of office at regular intervals. That way, even really bad presidents cannot do irreparable damage.

Based on this discussion the conclusion will be that we might as well elect a president the culturally approved way. The possible campaigning disadvantage of women candidates can be counteracted by informed voters.

However, there is another side to this problem we also need to consider. The practice of competition is not



invariant across cultures. Most people will avoid the experience of losing if they are given the choice. But the evaluation of losers both in their own eyes and in the eyes of significant associates makes the experience of running for an election and losing it worse in some cultures than in others. My guess is that introduction of competitive voting will bias the process of nominating good candidates against those from cultures where personal honour is more important than in mainstream western cultures. A case in point may be the possible tendency for losing candidates in the council vote to drop out of our organisation. Are we prepared to lose one good candidate for president at each election?

The current procedure is for the nominating committee to look for the best candidate they can find based on their own knowledge and input from members. Then if one percent of the membership is dissatisfied with this they can demand the council add their candidate to the ballot. One percent of the membership as of May 2003 was 7 members.

Should we move from our current procedure to one with the nominating committee proposing 2 candidates for president? What is your view? Please write us.

### **Voting procedures**

It has been proposed that we now in addition to the current mail voting also can use e-mail for sending in votes to the nominating committee. I know there are emerging systems that will allow us to conduct voting by e-mail or web-access in reasonable secrecy. But IASCP has not access to such systems yet. Before we start using our ordinary e-mail for voting we would like to hear from you on the kind of voting procedure you will prefer. Will voting by e-mail increase the number voting?

Voting in an organisation is reserved for members. Part of the theory of democracy is also that voting should be secret. The price for expressing your conviction should be as low as possible. Based on this theory we ought to have secret voting, as well as voting only by members.

For the last 3 elections we have been using the following procedure:

1. Election materials are sent to members in good standing only.
2. Election materials include ballot, bios, and one pre-printed return envelope.
3. Voting member must return the ballot to the Executive Director in the pre-printed envelope. The pre-printed envelope includes a space for the member's signature (across the envelope seal) and printed name.
4. Prior to removing the ballot, the Executive Director verifies and records the member's name.

5. The ballots and envelopes are separated and the ballots are sent to the Chair of the Nominating Committee and a second committee member for a tally of the votes.

The ideal voting procedure as usually practised with mail voting comprise the following steps:

- Each voter in isolation picks the preferred candidate and marks the ballot accordingly.
- The ballot is put in an unmarked envelope and sealed. This envelope is then put in another envelope where the voter's name and signature identifies the voter uniquely. This is also sealed.
- This signed envelope is put into a third envelope and sent to the keeper of the voter register where the identity of the voter is compared with the roll of voters to determine that the voter is entitled to vote and that no one votes more than once.
- After recording the vote in the register the inner envelope is removed but not opened. All the unopened envelopes are sent to an independent organ for counting. The number of counted votes must then sum up to the number of signed envelopes with the keeper of the register. The signed envelopes with the register are kept as documentation.

Comparing our current procedure against the ideal procedure we come close to the ideal. The only discrepancy is that our keeper of the voter register, the executive director, may take note of what each person votes as the ballot is removed from the signed envelope.

I still remember the unease I felt when I chaired the nominations committee and started receiving votes. I guess knowing how my different acquaintances voted is something I can live with, and I do not think any member I know will have either the inclination or the opportunity to misuse such information. It is more difficult to live with the knowledge of how easy it is to pretend to be another person by means of e-mail. How much resources are we prepared to use on monitoring the voting and investigate possible misconduct? The only comforting thought in this is that IASCP is not a rich and powerful enough organisation for anyone to spend time and effort to subvert its elections. J

But what do you think? Please tell us about your ideas of the best practical voting procedure, and how to increase participation in our elections.

Sincerely,

Erling Berge

President, IASCP

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Send Letters and Announcements** to Doug Wilson, Editor, CPR Digest, The Institute for Fisheries Management, North Sea Center, PO Box 104, DK-9850, Hirtshals, Denmark. dw@ifm.dk Tel: 45 98 94 28 55 Fax:: 45 98 94 42 68

**For membership, dues, back issues, and missing copies** Michelle Curtain, P.O. Box 2355 Gary, IN 46409 USA Tel: 01-219-980-1433 Fax:: 01-219-980-2801 iascp@indiana.edu

**For questions** about IASCP papers and research, contact Charlotte Hess, Information Officer, IASCP, 513 N. Park, Bloomington, IN 47408 USA iascp@indiana.edu Tel: 01-812-855-9636 Fax:: 01-812-855-3150

## The Commons in an Age of Global Transition: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities

The 10th Biennial Meeting of the IASCP

Oaxaca, Mexico, August 9 – 13, 2004

Hosted by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México



The theme and title for the conference is “*The Commons in an Age of Global Transition: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities*”. As such, IASCP 2004 seeks to stimulate further discussion upon many of the themes that were raised during the 2002 conference in Zimbabwe, where “Globalisation” was the central focus.

Ten sub-themes for the conference have been suggested below. The goal is to foster deeper discussions across all themes, including the analysis of institutional frameworks, the importance and influence of markets and public policy-making, and the interrelationships between policies and institutions at local, regional, national and international levels within the context of global transition.

Please note that broader papers covering topics that cut across more than one of the ten conference sub-themes are also welcome.

## Call for Proposals for Conference Side Events

Before, during and after the Conference, we hope that a number of organizations / institutions will be interested in holding meetings or side events on a variety of CPR-related themes, all of which will fuel discussion during the main conference proceedings. The aim is for these additional spaces to provide a more flexible and open format for discussion and help supplement the main working (panel) sessions that will be going on throughout the conference week.

Such side events could include the organization of workshops to take place on the day before the conference officially begins (Monday, August 9), or round tables, seminars and forums that would be given slots during the 3 days of conference panel sessions (Tuesday, August 10, Wednesday, August 11 & Friday, August 13). Thursday, August 12, is being reserved for fieldtrips out to local Oaxacan communities.

As such, we invite any organizations or institutions interested in organizing a side event, to submit a proposal. We are open to any proposal that, as mentioned, is on a CPR-related theme and will help aid discussion during the main conference proceedings. These proposals will go before review by the IASCP 2004 Conference Committee, and the most appropriate and thought-provoking will be selected. We will provide a suitable space and time slot for selected side events, along with tables, chairs, projectors and other basic equipment. The organization/institution in question, however, will be left to run and coordinate the event as they see fit.

To give you some idea of the length of these events: the workshops on the first day (August 9) can either be half day or full day affairs, whilst side events during the three days of the conference proper (August 10, 11 & 13) will be given 90 or 120 minute slots (early morning, midday or in the evening, thereby not clashing with the scheduled panel sessions). There would also be the opportunity for side events (such as forums) to take place on August 13, the day after the conference has officially ended. This could provide a useful opportunity for groups to discuss important CPR issues in light of the discussions that have taken place and lessons learned during the conference week.

Proposals for side events (no more than 500 words) should be sent to the Conference Committee at iascp04@indiana.edu by the latest April 1st, 2004, and should include details such as intended capacity, what, if any, special equipment will be required, and if you would like the event to be open to all conference delegates (or if participation will be by invitation or reservation only).

Please send a Word or Word-Perfect file as an e-mail attachment **ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING FORM:**

IASCP 2004 Side Events Proposal Form

Name of Institution

Person in charge of organizing side event

Mailing Address

Country

Email

Phone Number

Fax Number

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Papers are now invited and the abstracts submission deadline is **20<sup>th</sup> February 2004**.

For more information visit [www.littoral2004.org](http://www.littoral2004.org), or contact the conference office on enquiries@littoral2004.org or tel/fax +44 (0)1223 333438.

**Call for Proposals to Host IASCP 2006**

IASCP is now accepting preliminary proposals from individuals/ organizations interested in **HOSTING** our 11th biennial conference scheduled for 2006.

Those interested should submit a two page statement identifying your interests in hosting an IASCP conference. The most useful statement will include the following information:

1. proposed program chair (listing qualifications);
2. identification of the sponsoring organization;
3. list of potential co-sponsors;
4. proposed themes and sub-themes;
5. identification of appropriate venues;
6. proposed logistical arrangements, including field trips;
7. proposed funding sources; and
8. projected budgetary information.

Proposals must be received by **Michelle Curtain**, IASCP Executive Director, no later than May 10, 2004. You may send your proposals by email to: [iascp@indiana.edu](mailto:iascp@indiana.edu) or via postal mail to: **IASCP, PO Box 2355, Gary, IN 46409 USA.**

**The Fisheries Co-management Experience:  
Accomplishments, Challenges and Prospects**

Edited by: Douglas Clyde Wilson, Poul Degnbol and Jesper-Raakaer Nielsen of the Institute for Fisheries Management  
The Fisheries Co-management Experience begins with a review of the intellectual foundations of the co-management idea from several professional perspectives. Next, fisheries researchers from six global regions describe what has been happening on the ground in their area. Finally, the volume offers a set of reflections by some of the best authors in the field. The end result describes both the state-of-the-art and emerging issues for one of the most important trends in natural resources management. With an introduction by Svein Jentoft and a conclusion by Susan Hanna, the collection features contributions from experienced co-management scholars such as Evelyn Pinkerton, Bonnie McCay, Robert Pomeroy, David Symes, Kuperan Viswanathan and James Wilson.

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Send to: Charlotte Hess, IASCP Information Officer  
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**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF COMMON PROPERTY**

P.O. Box 2355 Gary IN 46409 USA Phone: 219-980-1433 Fax: 219-980-2801 e-mail: [iascp@indiana.edu](mailto:iascp@indiana.edu) <http://www.iascp.org>

**Common Property Resource Digest  
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