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

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

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

Call for Papers

Practitioners, academics, scholars and anyone interested in the study of common property issues and globalisation are invited to participate in the conference. IASCP encourages interested people to submit panel, individual paper and poster abstracts not exceeding 500 words by no later than October 31st 2001 to the Secretariat at the following e-mail address; iascp@cass.org.zw. Final papers should be submitted by April 1st 2002 in Microsoft word or word perfect as an e-mail attachment.

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

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

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

Sub-themes

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

2. Globalisation, Culture and the Commons
Culture has been a relatively unexplored factor in common property scholarship. As such, globalisation

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

3. "Protected Areas" in Constituting the Commons

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

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

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

5. New Analytic Tools for Common Property Resource Management

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

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

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

7. Trans-boundary natural resource management and the commons

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

Conference Theme:
The Commons in an Age of Globalisation

1.0 The Theme

The theme and title for the conference is "The Commons in an Age of Globalisation". Globalisation is a pervasive characteristic of the new millennium and highly topical in terms of the attention now being given it in the social and ecological sciences. It is seen as "the latest stage of a process where technological, economic, ecological, cultural and military trends, traditionally observable on a geographically limited scale and scope, are extended to the entire globe," leading to "the emergence of new players with new and different (power) relationships among them" (Finger, 1999: 1). Finger suggests that this process has eroded the centrality of the nation state, and also notes that "this new global institutional reality is, however, paralleled by a corresponding process of localisation, characterised mainly by its defensiveness and reactiveness" (ibd.: 9).

Finger's critique is a challenge to IASCP scholarship that cannot be ignored. With its affinities for processes of localisation, Common Property Theory cannot afford to be "characterised mainly by its defensiveness and reactiveness," nor can it ignore new configurations of institutional and organisational relationships that link the local with the global. For the "developing world," the asymmetrical power dimensions of these relationships are of particular relevance, not only in terms of economic and political dominance but also in terms of the cultural and conceptual hegemony associated with globalisation.

For these reasons, the conference theme "The Commons in an Age of Globalisation" should be looked from a broader perspective. Globalisation should not be restricted to just natural resource management, but should also include:

- Issues of governance, economic systems and hidden values, tourism and global ideology.
- Trade regimes and globalisation; issues of carbon sinks and climatic change.
- Diversity versus uniformity and the prescriptive rules of joining the global market (liberal democracy); scale issues and nested hierarchies.
- Intellectual property rights and tenure.
- Problems of acceptance and resistance of globalisation and the role of international markets as drivers.
- Globalisation - in the state versus local common property resource (whose interest does the state serve?).
- Globalisation as econo-centric and its relationship to sustainable use.
- Cultural diversity, marginalisation and globalisation links.
  To further pursue this theme seven subthemes are suggested below.

2.0 Sub-Themes
2.1 Globalisation, Governance and the Commons

Structure, organisation and relationships would be foci for this sub-theme. Governance perspectives, e.g. Regime Theory and Global Governance, would be examined in relation to Common Property Theory. The shifting role of the nation state under globalisation would receive attention, as would the centre-periphery relations both at sub-national and supra-national levels. Mechanisms and results of dominance would receive consideration. The match/mismatch of jurisdictional scale with ecological and functional scale would be examined.

Under this sub-theme the following topics could be considered, all in connection with "commons" considerations:

- Issues of vertical integration between North/South
- Globalisation of financial networks, production and the market
- Global environmental governance
- Regional and ecosystem perspectives
- Intrusions of globalisation at national and local levels
- Emerging patterns of relationship between state/global and global/local
- Roles of TNCs, NGOs, multi-laterals
- Conflict resolution mechanisms
- Demography and migration
- Access and equity issues
- Issues of vertical integration across scales of institutional organisation, including co-management
- Match/mismatch of jurisdictional scale with ecological and functional scale
- Linking institutional authority to sustainability of natural resource use
- Legitimacy
- Decentralisation/devolution
- Representation and accountability

2.2 Globalisation, Culture and the Commons

Culture has been a relatively unexplored factor in common property scholarship - acknowledged as important but analytically operationalised in diffuse and amorphous ways. Globalisation provides a rich palette on which to examine the relationship between culture and commons management and use since it has "fast-forwarded" aspects of this relationship and made them more discrete. The evolution of institutions in their normative dimensions would be at the core of this sub-theme.

It would also be examined whether globalisation produces new forms of cultural dominance. The dominance of professional science in an "epistemic community" of scholars, policy-makers, NGOs and aid agencies would be considered; this consideration being extended to include the historicity of concepts of common property themselves. The time scale permitted by cultures for a given people to think is crucial. Concepts of stewardship, inter-generation equity and sustainability would be examined.

Under this sub-theme the following topics could be considered, again with "Commons" issues being the emphasis:

- The normative roots of globalisation
- Linkages between colonial and globalisation perspectives

- The embedded nature of normative perspectives in bureaucracy
- Cultural dominance/dissonance
- Cultural homogenisation/heteroginisation under globalisation
- Technology, communications and culture
- ITK, civil and professional science
- Preference theory, from economic and cultural perspectives
- Stewardship and inter-generation equity
- Migration, demography and culture
- Globalisation and democratisation of political systems
- External influence on culture, e.g. church and business influence on commons management (cultural interactions).
- Culture/heterogeneity and equity
- Tradition, modernity and identity

2.3 "Protected Areas" in Constituting the Commons

The "protected area" approach has been one of the two "mainstream" strategies for conservation (the other being species conservation). The historical perspectives of how protected areas came about and what purpose they serve will be interrogated while the effectiveness of protected areas management will be investigated. For example in some areas there exists different policy sets and departments dealing with different resources (fisheries, forestry and wildlife) and yet it is the same people expected to the various policy sets and departments in their interaction with resources.

For urban, industrialised societies it remains a principal mode of the use of nature, and is held out as a paradigm for the developing world. In Africa, its impact on land use and state appropriations of nature has been profound. Recently, PA advocates have begun to reach out to more people-centred approaches but this initiative from ecological scholarship has had little impact from social scientists and the inclusion of this topic in the IASCP conference could be usefully instructive.

Papers to be submitted under this sub-theme are expected to link up local-level issues with globalisation and explore the linkages of protected areas and development programs in comparison to people. There is need to rethink protected areas in the age of globalisation by going beyond wildlife resources.

Topics to be considered under this sub-theme could include:

- The political economy of PAs
- PAs as international, national or local commons
- Local initiatives in creating PAs
- Trans-boundary PA initiatives and their connections with globalisation
- Urbanisation and PA concepts
- Re-examination of PA categories (IUCN) and concepts
- Regional ecosystems and commons management
- PAs and cost/benefit transfers at local, national and international levels
- Comparison of PA, sustainable use and stewardship paradigms of conservation
- PAs and sectional interests (socio-economic, age, gender, political elites, market forces, etc.)
- Local interpretations and Protected Areas
- Financing and manning Protected Areas

- Biosphere reserves in the context of protection and
- Inclusion of gene banks under Protected Areas

2.4 Land and Resource Tenure Reform and the Commons in an Era of Globalisation.

Land and resource tenure has long been an important issue for common property scholarship, because common property regimes are always imbedded within wider sets of property relations. These encompassing regimes of access and entitlement to resources help to define the character of specific arrangements for the use of common pool resources. Prospects for the enhanced management of CPRs are often linked to the dynamics of change in land and resource tenure systems, whether these are at the level of national laws and policies or in more local contexts.

Globalisation has introduced new pressures into national and local contexts. In particular, the perceived need for national economies to attract foreign investments, together with an increased role for the private sector in development, have led to renewed attention being given to issues regarding the clarification and stabilisation of common property regimes in the livelihood of the rural poor. The rights of indigenous people to resources should be examined.

Land and agrarian reform is back on the policy agendas of many countries across the globe. There is need to examine the widening of the definition of land and agrarian reform. In Africa, in particular, recent years have seen a large number of new constitutions, land laws and land policies being developed, debated and implemented. What impact have these had on the livelihoods of local communities?

Similarly in the water sector, common objectives often highlighted in new water Acts for reforming the sector include: promotion of equality in access to water for all citizens; decentralisation of water management to the catchment level; increase stakeholder involvement in water management; and making of the sector self financing by instituting full cost recovery measures. But, how successful have been these measures in facilitating the improvement of the livelihoods of the rural poor, and to what extent have equity issues been addressed?

Specific issues and topics, which may arise under this sub-theme, are as follows:

- Land/water, and other resource tenure reforms, decentralisation and the commons
- The integration of customary and statutory law
- Traditional authority, resources and the commons
- Common property resources in land/water and resource tenure reform legislation
- Legal entities for holding and managing common property
- Gender, land/water and resource rights and common property
- The state, civil society and markets in land and resource tenure reform
- Common property in land and resource redistribution programmes
- The history and evolution of tenure regimes
- Multi-functionality of land and the choice of property regime
- Privatisation of land/water and other resources
- Aboriginal land/resource rights and common property.

2.5 New Analytic Tools for Common Property Resource Management.

The past two decades have witnessed the increased use of computer applications designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, and analysis of spatially referenced data for solving resource management problems, among others. Also, recent technological improvements such as Internet access

have also meant access to a lot of satellite images and other GIS compatible resource management data at global, regional, and local levels.

Factors inhibiting the extended use of these technologies include: prohibitive costs; the lack of technical know-how; lack of access to the technology; and the inability to keep pace with the new developments in the computer world as a whole.

Specific issues and topics that could arise under this sub-theme include:

- Costs and access to technology
- People's technical know-how
- Applications of the technology and relevance to CPR
- Scale and technology
- Role of intermediate technology
- Issues of standardisation in data management and problems faced
- Attitudes, perceptions, and acceptance of technology
- Ethics and people's rights where global technology accesses local data without their knowledge or consent.
- Role of the Internet in the future of GIS
- Disparities in access to the technology in a globalising system
- Regulation on the use/abuse of the technology
- Ethical considerations of new analytical tools
- Networks for data sharing and standardization
- GIS as a planning tools for local people
- Institutional issues in managing the technology
- Technology and information transfer between developed and developing countries/ Sharing of information by different producers and users

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

The meaning of 'indigenous' remains contested to the present day. However, despite the contestation on the concept, it has implications on issues to do with time, place-specific and personal experiences of particular people within given cultural settings. Many socio-economic cultural processes such as oral education, gender relations, and other social differentiations are essential in managing what are in effect common pool resources. Experts in most traditional or near traditional societies are recognised as such within the confines of the communities they are in. They derive their legitimacy within the general context of their environs even when they are recognised in areas that are far away from their own societies.

Societies organise environmental data based on their experiences and people from different societies create specific taxonomies, classifications, propositions and explanatory frameworks on general and specific environmental processes. The information thus obtained over long periods of observation shapes local perspectives on the environment as societies get to intimately know phenomena in their locales, and attach meanings, values and attitudes to them.

The discussion under this sub-theme will acknowledge the similarities between contemporary knowledge systems and IKS. Case studies of both knowledge systems would be most ideal to highlight the similarities. IKS will be discussed as a form of commons in itself and as a tool for use in the

integrity of common property. Reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) article on IKS is necessary in framing the discussion at global level and interface with intellectual property rights.

Issues of culture, regimes and governance, informal trade of resource materials at different levels will be examined. In most developing countries, especially in Africa, groups become the repositories of the knowledge gained from the processes mentioned here. Hence knowledge, skills and strategies for resource management are often group assets even though monopolisation of some of the knowledge by individuals or sects tends to develop.

The interactive knowledge of the environment and the common property nature of the knowledge used in managing natural resources in most rural societies is under serious challenge from individually based knowledge systems, deriving from industrial systems based on patents and related systems. The conference needs to present the issues and challenges faced especially in managing the commons and promoting their social and biophysical integrity in rural environs.

The following topics could be pertinent:

- Proprietary knowledge and skills and individualisation of managing resources.
- International conventions, bio-piracy issues, the role of diverse knowledge systems and prospects for sustainable natural resource management.
- Intellectual property rights and the sustainable management of the commons.
- Indigenous knowledge systems and external policy and legal values.
- Indigenous knowledge and empowerment: ethical issues of intellectual property rights for natural resources management
- Privatisation and commercialisation of medicinal plant materials at village and international corporate levels
- Culture, regimes and governance in indigenous knowledge systems.

2.7 Trans-boundary natural resource management and the commons

Trans-boundary natural resource management (TBNRM) refers to the process of co-operation across boundaries that enhance the management of natural resources for the benefit of all stakeholders. This perspective has of late come into the limelight because of increased competition over natural resources by users of various levels - community, national, or global level. For example, some major rivers are jointly shared among states and may supply adequate supplies of good quality water, which may be an essential element for the survival, economic welfare, and prosperity of these states. However, if unused water gradually becomes scarce, then water extracted by a user means lack of water for the other resulting in competition over the resource, which may subsequently lead to conflict. Similarly, both human and animal populations migrate across or straddle political boundaries and this has, in some cases led to conflicts and even mobilisation of armed forces. The new perspective calls for the creation of common policies, legislation, laws and governance that are in harmony with the concept of trans-boundary natural resource management. Case study approaches to TBNRM CPRs of water, fisheries and migratory wildlife are most appropriate in this discussion. Trans-boundary cultural issues, participation, policy and institutions, tourism circuits around TBNRs, water/wetlands and and other wildlife-based activities from the different regions are pertinent. Issues of conflicting land uses, legal framework and local stakeholder perspectives should be interrogated.

The following issues could be considered under this sub-theme:

- Distribution of the range of ecosystems across the boundaries and their effect on management

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- Joint formulation of management policy for Trans-boundary natural resource management
- Trans-boundary natural resource management conflict resolution within nations, between nations, and their impact on globalisation
- Natural resource management and community empowerment/marginalisation in the globalisation era
- Institutions, financial sustainability and Trans-boundary natural resource management
- Trans-boundary natural resource management, policies, legislation, laws and governance
- Regional planning and Trans-boundary natural resource management
- Trans-boundary natural resource management and co-ordination in the globalisation era
- Tourism, equity, and Trans-boundary natural resource management.
- Participation, policy, and institutions

<u>Reference</u>

Finger, Matthias, (1999). "Globalisation and Governance." Policy Matters, Issue No. 6, December, pp. 1-9.