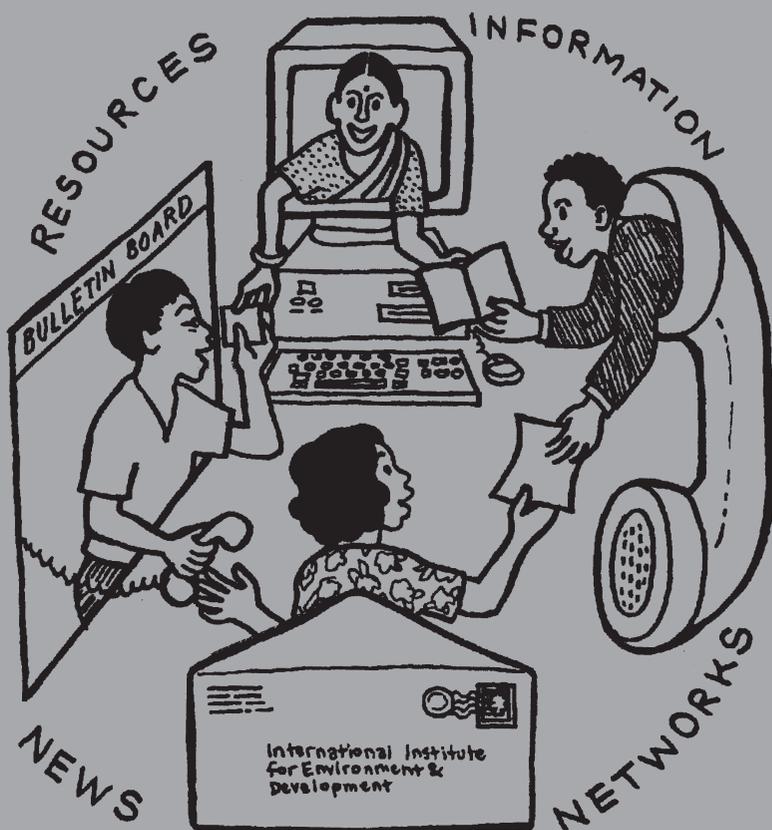


IN TOUCH



Welcome to the In Touch section of *Participatory Learning and Action*. Through these pages we hope to create a more participatory resource for the *Participatory Learning and Action* audience, to put you, as a reader, in touch with other readers. We want this section to be a key source of up-to-date information on training, publications, and networks. Your help is vital in keeping us all in touch about:

- **Networks.** Do you have links with recognised local, national or international networks for practitioners of participatory learning? If so, what does this network provide – training? newsletters? resource material/library? a forum for sharing experiences? Please tell us about the network and provide contact details for other readers.
- **Training.** Do you know of any forthcoming training events or courses in participatory methodologies? Are you a trainer yourself? Are you aware of any key training materials that you would like to share with other trainers?

- **Publications.** Do you know of any key publications on participatory methodologies and their use? Have you (or has your organisation) produced any books, reports, or videos that you would like other readers to know about?
- **Electronic information.** Do you know of any electronic conferences or pages on the Internet which exchange or provide information on participatory methodologies?
- **Other information.** Perhaps you have ideas about other types of information that would be useful for this section. If so, please let us know.

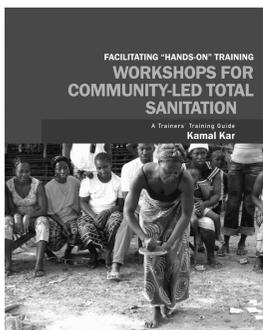
Please send your responses to:

Participatory Learning and Action, IIED,
3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD,
UK.

Email: pla.notes@iied.org

Books & other resources

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)



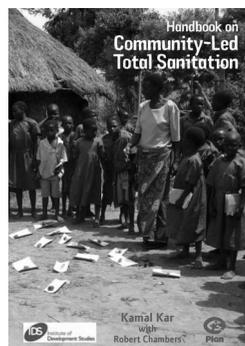
Facilitating 'Hands On' Training Workshops for Community-Led Total Sanitation – A Trainers' Training Guide

● Kamal Kar,
April 2010,
WSSCC, Geneva,
Switzerland

Comprehensive guide for those planning and implementing CLTS training, based on the author's vast experience of training all over the world. The demand for facilitators and trainers of facilitators far exceeds supply, but training must be of high quality if CLTS facilitation is to be effective. People have to become good facilitators before they can become good trainers of facilitators, so these guidelines begin by describing training methodologies that focus on training good facilitators. They then go on to give tips on how to train trainers of facilitators. The guide is divided into three parts. Part 1 introduces the scope, purpose and basic CLTS terminology, Part 2 describes the detailed steps of the proposed training methodology and process; and Part 3 provides additional background information and references to the steps described in Part 2. The author cautions that the methods described are not set in stone –

innovation and adaptation to the local context are vital.

Available to download at www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/resource/facilitating-hands-training-workshops-clts-trainers-training-guide. A French translation is being prepared.



Handbook on Community-Led Total Sanitation

● Kamal Kar
with Robert
Chambers, 2008.
IDS and Plan UK

This handbook contains comprehensive information on

CLTS – its pre-triggering, triggering and post-triggering stages – as well as examples and case studies from around the world. As well as being a resource for field staff, facilitators and trainers, it will also be useful for CLTS orientation workshops and advocacy.

Available to download from: www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/resource/handbook-community-led-total-sanitation

To request a hard copy in English, email: P.Bongartz@ids.ac.uk. A Portuguese version is available on request from UNICEF Mozambique (email: amuianga@unicef.org) and a Khmer translation available from Plan Cambodia (e-mail: cambodia.co@plan-international.org). An Arabic translation is being prepared.

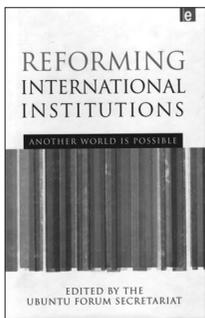
Practical Guide to Triggering Community-Led Total Sanitation

● *Kamal Kar, 2005. IDS*

This basic how-to guide aims to help frontline staff and field facilitators understand the philosophy and principles of CLTS, and to use some of the practical tools and techniques flexibly and freely.

Available in English, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, French, Lao from www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/resource/practical-guide-triggering-community-led-total-sanitation.

GENERAL



Reforming International Institutions – Another World is Possible

● *UBUNTU Forum Secretariat, 2009, Earthscan, ISBN 978 1 8440 811 0*

Climate change, the global financial crisis and prevalence of armed conflicts all over the world are stark reminders of the need for a robust and effective system of international governance – the architecture of transnational actors and rules designed to organise human society on a global scale. The current system and operation of international institutions including the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or World Bank, however, are often criticised as being imbalanced and inadequate to tackle today's problems.

Reforming International Institutions – Another World is Possible, edited by the UBUNTU Forum Secretariat, provides a comprehensive overview of the current reform discussions and their history, as well as an array of suggestions. UBUNTU is the World Forum of Civil Society Networks whose aim is to contribute to a more peaceful, just and human world that

allows for endogenous development. The book is a compilation of papers, speeches and other documents issued during the first decade of this millennium.

Contributors include academics, campaigners, diplomats and other 'practitioners' of international governance.

They all agree that there is a need to democratise the composition and decision-making processes of existing institutions. The UN should provide the umbrella and central focus of reforms and integrate other organisations such as the World Bank or the IMF into its organisational framework. But to overcome the current democratic deficit they also consider it necessary to institutionalise the participation of non-state actors which can, amongst others, include non-governmental organisations, multinational corporations, universities, local layers of government or regional associations.

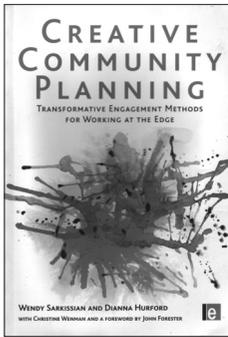
While some of the contributions are captivating and contain compelling appeals for the meaningful participation of civil society, the nature of the book results in the repetition of ideas. Rather than a coherent stream of thoughts it offers different, sometimes contradictory, political and socio-economic observations. Some of the points of views and ideas have also been overtaken by time.

Nevertheless, the book makes a strong case for democratic global governance mechanisms as a means to correct conflicts and markets in an ever-more connected world. It outlines the existing system of international institutions and many of its shortcomings. In particular, Part 4 which arranges proposals for reform according to themes, provides a useful source of reference. The book also reminds the reader of the various initiatives launched over the years and their often very limited success. One of the conclusions that stands out is that the

current state-centred system may be naturally incapable of implementing the necessary reforms. Hence the primary political action required is increasing external pressure for change.

Reviewed by Christoph Schwarte, Staff Lawyer, Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD)

Available from Earthscan, Dunstan House, 14a St. Cross Street, London EC1N 8XA, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7841 1930; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7242 1474; Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; Website: www.earthscan.co.uk



Creative Community Planning: Transformative Engagement Methods for Working at the Edge

● Wendy Sarkissian and Dianna Hurford

with Christine Wenman, Earthscan, ISBN: 978 18440 7703 8

Creative community planning pushes the borders of current approaches to community engagement and planning. Whilst relevant to participatory practice and community engagement in general, this book will also be of relevance to theorists, researchers and practitioners engaged with climate change planning.

In the context of climate change, planning frameworks, be it for development, economic growth or adaptation, will need to identify and support local responses that can deal with global problems. Additionally, these frameworks will also need to be flexible in order to cope with the uncertainty posed by climate change. To meet the specific needs and, at times, the new challenges posed by climate change, planning frameworks will need to be

transformative in the way that they solicit and institutionalise community engagement in planning cycles. Sarkissian and Hurford's book outlines specific approaches to enable transformative engagement and planning. The book introduces the concept of 'creative community planning' and then goes on to provide a number of methods that can be used for creative community planning.

Chapter 1 discusses the need for effective listening and understanding others during community engagement processes – the need to *'realize the diversity in ourselves, to explore the ideas and personalities that trigger us'*. It introduces the concept of 'ecotone', which explores *'notions of change and growth, at the margin, at the edge'*. As a concept, ecotone, pushes the boundaries of either/or debates, which *'tend to emphasize the importance of rational/emotional, technical/social and singular/multiple approaches to current and future issues of sustainability'*. The authors invite readers to engage with ecotone as the *'margins is where change is more likely to occur and be more dramatic than in communities that border this place'*. Climate change planners are also likely to benefit from such an engagement given the current dichotomy between planning for adaptation, mitigation and low carbon growth.

Chapter 2 outlines the role of informal interaction, using methods like play ethic or acting like a child, as a pre-requisite for effective engagement. Chapter 3 outlines methods that can improve engagement processes. For instance, the 'embodied affinity diagram' has been highlighted as a process that ensures people are closely and intimately listened to. Subsequent chapters outline methods such as 'dreaming', 'visioning', including the role of 'community visioning', 'backcasting' and being aware of 'multiple intelligences', as tools for identifying future scenarios.

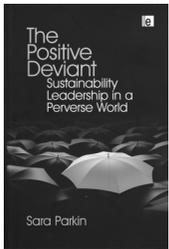
'Community visioning ...forces people to break out of analytical thinking patterns, which may be exactly what critical thinkers need to solve their problem'

'whilst "Theory U" as a visioning approach could also be relevant in understanding the root causes of climate change impacts as it helps to shift our focus from *'reactive responses and quick fixes on a symptoms level to generative responses that address systemic root issues'*.

For readers who are not familiar with community engagement practices, this book introduces a number of useful concepts and methods, illustrated with practical examples.

**Reviewed by Nanki Kaur,
Researcher, Climate Change Group,
IIED**

Available from Earthscan, Dunstan House, 14a St. Cross Street, London EC1N 8XA, UK; Tel: +44 (0) 20 7841 1930; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7242 1474; Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; Website: www.earthscan.co.uk



**The Positive Deviant:
Sustainability
Leadership in a Perverse
World**

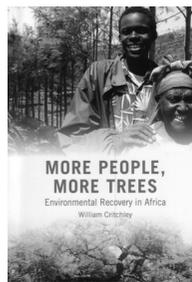
● *Sara Parkin, 2010,
Earthscan, ISBN 978 1
84971 118 0*

Written by the Founder Director of Forum for the Future, this book is a thoughtful, stimulating and timely contribution to current thinking on sustainability, providing insights into the concept of "positive deviance" and how small actions at a local level can make a difference globally.

Parkin takes a holistic approach to sustainability and emphasises how important it is for us all to take responsibility and take action – and develop our leadership qualities – since we cannot afford to wait for international processes and national governments to provide sustainable solutions.

The book is divided into four sections: the first deals with the symptoms of unsustainability, the second with what is unsatisfactory about how leadership/management training and education is carried out, the third looks at ways of thinking, knowledge bases, principles of practice and key tools for a sustainability-literate leader, particularly those in positive deviant mode. The fourth and final section provides an overview of what needs to happen at a global level – highlighting how many local actions can all add up to globally significant contributions.

Available from Earthscan, Dunstan House, 14a St. Cross Street, London EC1N 8XA, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7841 1930; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7242 1474; Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; Website: www.earthscan.co.uk



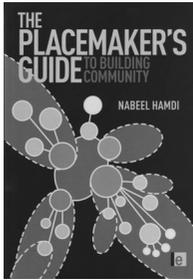
**More People, More
Trees: Environmental
Recovery in Africa**

● *William Critchley,
2010, Practical Action
Publishing Ltd, ISBN
978 1 85339 717 2,
English/French*

In the early 90s, development agencies began working with farmers' groups in Burkina Faso and Kenya using a new, participatory approach. Two videos recorded these new approaches – and *More people, more Trees* goes back to the same communities and the same development markets and documents what has altered 20 years later. The film which accompanies this book shows spectacular changes: most obviously more trees planted and protected by people themselves, aided and encouraged by continuing community projects. *More People, More Trees* highlights a demonstrable success story for community participation in agricultural change in these two sub-Saharan African countries. The

accompanying book expounds upon the powerful messages in the film and describes the technologies employed by the communities.

Available from Practical Action Publishing Ltd; Website: www.practicalactionpublishing.org



The Placemaker's Guide to Building Community

● Nabeel Hamdi, 2010, Earthscan, ISBN 9781844078035

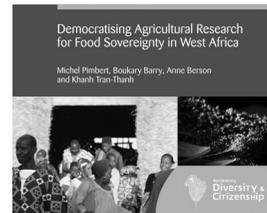
'Placemaking' is a term that began to be used in the 1970s by architects and planners to describe the process of creating interesting spaces which attract people and are pleasurable. This guide, from the author of *Small Change* and known as the 'guru' of participatory planning, is packed with practical skills and tools that architects, planners, urban designers and other built environment specialists need in order to engage effectively with development work.

Nabeel Hamdi offers fresh insight into the complexities faced by practitioners when working to improve people's communities, lives and livelihoods. The book shows how these complexities are a context for, rather than a barrier to, creative work. The book also critiques the top-down approach to design and planning. Using examples of successful professional practice across Europe, the US, Africa, Latin America and post-tsunami Asia, Hamdi demonstrates how good policy can derive from good practices when reasoned backwards, as well as how plans can emerge in practice without a preponderance of planning. Reasoning backwards is shown to be a more effective and inclusive way of planning forwards with significant improvements to the quality of process and place. The author outlines the PEAS principles of responsible practice –

Providing, Enabling, Adaptability, and Sustainability. The book offers a variety of methods and tools for analysing the issues, engaging with communities and other stakeholders for design and settlement planning and for improving the skills of all involved in placemaking.

Ultimately the book serves as an inspiring guide, and a distillation of decades of practical wisdom and experience. The handbook is for all those involved in doing, learning and teaching placemaking and urban development.

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Democratising Agricultural Research for Food Sovereignty in West Africa

● Michel

Pimbert, Boukary Barry, Anne Berson, Khanh Tran-Thanh, 2010

IIED, CNOP, IRPAD, Kene Conseils, Centre Djoliba, URTEL, ISBN 978-1-84369-791-6, Product Code 14603IIED

The multimedia publication presents the findings of citizens' juries — held in 2010 — at which farmers, pastoralists, food processors and consumers from Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Benin heard evidence from expert witnesses and made recommendations about the future of agricultural research and its governance. This initiative seeks to create safe spaces in which food providers and consumers can discuss how to build an agri-food research system that is democratic and accountable to wider society. An explicit aim of the entire process is to strengthen the voices and effectiveness of small-scale producers and other citizens in the governance of agricultural research as

well as in setting strategic research priorities and validating knowledge.

The book combines text, photos, video and audio recordings to describe the methodologies used in processes of deliberation and inclusion that involved small-scale producers (farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and food processors) and holders of specialist knowledge on agricultural research. The policy recommendations that emerged out of two citizens' juries and farmer-led assessments of agricultural research are presented here along with some critical reflections on the process so far. The outcomes of these citizen deliberations have significant implications for current debates on the future of food and farming in West Africa.

This multimedia publication is available online and will be printed as a hardcopy book in early 2011.

www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14603IIED



NOW AVAILABLE IN FRENCH
Sharing Power: Learning by doing in co-management of natural resources throughout the world
Partager le pouvoir:

Gouvernance élargie et cogestion des ressources naturelles de par le monde

● *Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Michel Pimbert, Taghi Farvar, Ashish Kothari, Yves Renard, 2009*

IIED/UICN/CEESP/TGER/Cenesta, ISBN 978-1-84369-444-1, Product Code 9230IIED (English)

ISBN 978-1-84369-721-3, Product Code 9230FIIED (French)

At the heart of 'co-management' of biodiversity and natural resources is a process of collective understanding and action by local communities and other social actors. The process brings about negotiated agreements on management

roles, rights, and responsibilities, making explicit the conditions and institutions of sound decentralized governance. De facto, co-management is about sharing power. When successful, it spells out the peaceful and intelligent ways by which communities and other actors overcome environmental challenges, take best advantage of nature's gifts and share those in fairness and solidarity. When it fails, it ushers conflict, human misery and environmental damage.

This book is designed to support professionals and citizens at large who wish both to better understand collaborative management processes and to develop and enhance them in practice. It begins by offering a variety of vistas, from broad historical and equity considerations to in-depth co-management examples. The understanding accumulated in recent decades on the appropriate starting or entry points for co-management, prerequisites for successful negotiations (such as effective social communication and internal organization of the parties) as well as rules, methods and conditions of the negotiations themselves are illustrated in detail. Methods and tools, such as practical checklists distilled from different situations and contexts, are offered throughout.

Available from Earthprint, www.earthprint.com

PARTICIPATORY VIDEO RESOURCES



A Rights-Based Approach to Participatory Video: toolkit

● *Gareth Benest, InsightShare, 2010*

This is a practical, do-it-yourself guide for leaders and facilitators wishing to strengthen their work through introducing a rights-based approach to

participatory video. Compact and beautifully laid out with illustrations and dynamic links to videos and photostories, this toolkit is eminently practical; full of exercises and techniques, facilitator checklists, case studies, templates, resource lists and copies of key human rights instruments. It explains core concepts such as why participatory video favours an overt rather than covert approach to helping groups shape their rights-based video messages and the importance of identifying and valuing 'home-known rights' to avoid imposing lists of rights that could be perceived as alien or agitating.

The toolkit is available to download for free at <http://insightshare.org/resources/right-based-approach-to-pv-toolkit>



NOW AVAILABLE IN FIVE LANGUAGES!
Insights into Participatory Video: A Handbook for the Field

● *Nick & Chris Lunch, InsightShare, 2006*

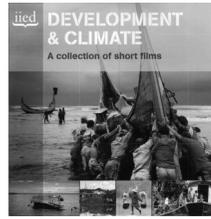
This PV handbook is now available in French, Spanish, Russian and Bahasa Indonesian. The original English version and the translations can be downloaded for free at <http://insightshare.org/resources/pv-handbook>



Participatory Video Google Group

InsightShare have started a Google Group for all those who are interested in exchanging ideas, challenges and learning about participatory video. The page is at: <http://groups.google.co.uk/group/insightshare-followers>. Please join and invite other people to do so!

PARTICIPATORY VIDEO ON DVD



Development and Climate. A collection of short films

● *IIED, 2010*

This DVD showcases a selection of films screened during the Development and Climate Film Festival at the UNFCCC COP in Copenhagen, December 2009. The films were produced by local communities from around the world and they raise awareness of the impacts of climate change, share ideas, and convey important messages in a creative and engaging way. The films cover topics such as adaptation, impacts, REDD, and technology – across Africa, Asia and South America.

For more information visit www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=10025
 IIED

Food sovereignty

● *IIED, Qolla Aymara, Peru, 2010*

These participatory videos were produced by the Quechua and Aymara communities in the Andes as part of an IIED-led action research project. They reflect their feelings about their food, nature, the way food is produced and food-related traditions and beliefs in Quechuan and Aymaran culture. They also highlight the importance of locally controlled and diverse food systems to sustain both people and nature.



Food Sovereignty in the Andes / Soberanía alimentaria en los Andes

We have many food crops, such as bitter potato, sweet potato, quinoa, canihua, barley, broad beans, which give them food for the whole year. We transform these

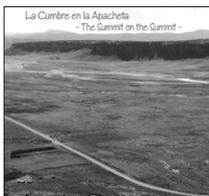
food crops into more than 40 delicious meals, combining the Andean grains, meat from llamas, alpacas, mutton, guinea pig, pig and chicken. The natural cycle of life starts with pure and clean water surfacing in springs, coming from rain, from the snow mountains and wells, which nurture the fields, animals and ourselves. The food prepared unites the Aymara and Quechua families, it revives traditions and customs that come from our ancestors, to live well. Downloadable from: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14595IIED



Dialogue is a Rainbow of Wisdoms/Aborcoiris de diálogo de saberes

Food sovereignty is a process aiming at a

fulfilling life in exercise of our rights to know what we are eating and to maintain our identities, independent from the agroindustrial food. Every day when we eat potatoes, olluco, mashua, oca, quinoa, maize, alpaca meat, when we drink fresh spring water, collect our own vegetables, use natural salt we are asserting our cultural identities as Quechua or Aymara people. The diverse food habits are the expression of our wisdom and community practices. That is why we engage in dialogue with scientists, urban citizens and in the future with politicians. We want to form part of a plurality of culinary cultures for humankind, each one contributing with particular values of nurturing nature, society and the spirits. Download: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14596IIED



The summit on the summit / La cumbre en la apacheta

We are living in Andean Communities in spite of the

deterioration that the official and colonising system is causing to our food wisdom. Concerned about this, the members of the community Ayrumas Karumas called upon a first intercommunal workshop: “The Summit on the Summit” that took place on June 2, 2009. We gathered and talked about climate change, nurture of plants and animals, food sovereignty, health and landscape, and people. We visualised our ideas, shared them and engaged ourselves to act together for the community of our lives. Download: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14593IIED



Message to our sisters and brothers in Iran, Mali and India / Mensaje a los hermanos de Iran, Mali e India

With the permission of our sacred mountains and Mother Earth, who nurture us day by day, we want to send our most cordial greetings to our sisters and brothers in India, Mali and Iran from the Andes of Peru and Bolivia. Download: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14594IIED



Food is Everywhere / La comida esta en todos lados

● IIED, Qolla Aymara, Peru, 2008 Food Sovereignty is the right to practise

our agricultural knowledge and produce food respecting the continuity of life in this planet. It is also the right to enjoy the diversity of taste, colours, and ingenuity in the preparation of delicious dishes that nourish our bodies, our senses, feelings, memories and visions and to eat to be ourselves. Download: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14597IIED

Events and training

InsightShare Participatory Video courses

Introduction to Participatory Video

● *12th-16th September 2011*

London, UK

An intensive and rigorous short course for those keen to learn the basics of participatory video facilitation, including a community placement day where facilitation skills can be practiced and deepened.

Editing for Participatory Video

● *17th-18th September 2011*

London, UK

The Editing for Participatory Video course complements and builds upon the basic editing skills and overall facilitation skills learnt during the preceding Introduction to Participatory Video course.

This course is specifically aimed at those with little or no prior experience of computer-based video editing, however the unique approaches adopted when editing within the context of participatory video projects mean that it is relevant for experienced editors looking to develop skills in this field. It takes place on the weekend immediately after the Introduction to Participatory Video course (see above) and is intended for trainees who wish to broaden their skills set and fully develop their capacity to deliver on all aspects of the participatory video process.

For more information:

<http://insightshare.org/engage/courses>

Mosaic.net International, Inc. training courses

Stakeholder participation workshop in planning, needs assessment, and monitoring and evaluation

● *7th-12th February 2011*

Tepoztlan, Mexico

This six-day workshop will be held in collaboration with Sarar Transformacion in Mexico. It will show you how to:

- master participatory tools in the workplace;
- apply participatory approaches to the project cycle;
- design solutions for your own situation;
- analyse community needs and priorities from the community perspective; and
- integrate participatory methods into project design, monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop is based on a hands-on approach to participatory development that can be applied in the South, in both urban and rural community settings. It introduces the concepts and tools behind participatory development. Practice assignments in the community will enable participants to master and improve the tools and approaches to participation, to help you and/or your organisation interact more effectively with groups and/or the community.

All participants should have a basic knowledge of English and Spanish and be able to express themselves in both languages. Fees include accommodation and most meals, workshop, resource materials, snacks and coffee.

Registration fees:

UN, international institutions and government: US\$1600.00

International NGOs, academics, private sector: US\$1280.00

Local NGOs and private sector, full-time students from the North: US\$1000.00

Full time students from the South: US\$750.00

Participatory monitoring and evaluation with a three-day community assignment

● 18th–23rd July 2011

University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

This six-day PM&E workshop that will show you how to:

- rethink your own monitoring and evaluation strategies and approaches;
- master participatory PM&E tools for the workplace;
- facilitate PM&E processes for your project, programme or organisation;
- develop monitoring and evaluation plans in a more participatory manner;
- integrate qualitative and participatory methods into monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop will be based in the community to maximise learning, group interaction and networking. Participants will go out into the community on a daily basis to apply tools and to learn by doing. Mosaic will also organise three-day community assignments based on monitoring and evaluation needs and issues identified by the host organisation. The community practice assignments will be in one of five different communities in and around Ottawa. Please note that accommodation and meals are not included in the registration fee. All participants should have a basic knowledge of English and be able to express themselves in the English language.

Registration fee

Government, United Nations, multinationals: CA or US\$1500.00

NGO/consultants: CA or US\$1250.00

Full-time students: CA or US \$995.00

Gender training

● 25th–30th July 2011

University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

A joint collaboration involving Gender Equality Incorporated and Mosaic International, Inc. Organisations, programmes and projects are increasingly being asked to develop gender equality policies and strategies that seek to provide women and men with equal opportunities and ensure that there interventions are gender-sensitive or at the very least do not reinforce inequities. This gender training workshop seeks to provide workshop participants with core concepts, gender analytic frameworks and gender strategies that can improve the effectiveness of their organisations, programmes and projects in working with vulnerable and marginalised women and men, boys and girls. The workshop will move beyond the theory to apply in practical and useful ways gender analysis and gender-sensitive strategies to participants' organisations, programmes and projects to achieve greater social justice, development and peace.

The workshop is based on a hands-on approach to gender equality that can be applied in Canada and overseas. The format will vary between presentations, individual and group work and case studies drawn from participants' own work to encourage the sharing of knowledge and experiences that can be applied to real-life situations. There will be a field assignment in and around Ottawa that will give participants an opportunity to undertake a gender audit.

Registration fee:

Government, United Nations, multinationals: CA or US\$1500.00

NGO/consultants: CA or US\$1250.00

Full-time students: CA or US \$995.00

Please note that accommodation and

meals are not included in the registration fee. All participants should have a basic knowledge of English and be able to express themselves in the English language.

For more information, please contact: Françoise Coupal, Mosaic.net International, Inc.

705 Roosevelt Avenue, Ottawa, Canada, K2A 2A8. Tel: +613 728 1439; Fax: +613 728 1154; Email: wkshop05@mosaic-net-intl.ca; Website: www.mosaic-net-intl.ca

Courses from the Centre for Participatory Development Studies

The Centre for Participatory Development Studies is part of the Participatory Development Centre (PDC), a professional community development training, research and consultancy organisation. The Centre offers full-time, part-time and distance-learning diploma programmes in participatory development for governmental agencies, international and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, civil society organisations and the private sector.

Gender Mainstreaming for Development

● *30th May–3rd June 2011*

Nairobi, Kenya

This course seeks to enable participants to acquire awareness and sensitivity to gender-related issues and to incorporate these into programme design, planning, and implementation. The course topics will include some of the following:

- The social construction of gender
- Understanding the concept of gender
- Women in development and gender in development
- The role of gender in sustainable development
- The relationship between gender equality, gender equity and empowerment
- Gender planning methods

- Gender mainstreaming in organisations, programmes and projects
- Monitoring and evaluating gender programmes

Participatory Learning and Action (PLA/PRA)

● *11th–15th April 2011, Nairobi, Kenya*

● *25th–29th April 2011, Juba, Southern Sudan*

This two-week course is aimed at project managers and coordinators, development workers/field workers, social workers, field animators, interns and development volunteers. It is tailor made to facilitate specific knowledge, aptitudes and skills on the theoretical framework, methodologies and practical application of the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA/PRA) paradigms as entry points in the assessment of needs and resources for project start-up and development. Practical field application and simulations are in-built in this training programme. The course topics will include the following:

- The concept of PLA
- Understanding the interface between PRA and PLA
- The development and participatory context of PLA
- The fundamental differences between PLA and other approaches
- Genesis of rural and urban learning appraisal
- The main pillars of the appraisal and learning paradigms
- Key steps of the methodologies
- Principles that underlie the methods of PLA
- Gender mainstreaming in relation to PLA
- Issues of advocacy and lobbying within PLA
- Data collection, techniques and tools
- The importance and centrality of Community Action Plans (CAP)
- Synthesis, analysis and interpretation of the data
- Validation of the draft data and initial information accruing from the exercise

- Tips and techniques on report writing
- Structural and organisational challenges facing PLA
- Facing the future with confidence through PLA

Course fees: US\$600 including tuition, food and accommodation.

For more information please contact: The Strategic Manager, Participatory Development Centre (PDC), 340 Diamond Park Estate, behind Parkside Towers (Zain Head office) off Mombasa Road, Nairobi, 7868-00200, Kenya. Tel: +254 202496955; +254 202015144; Fax: +254 717540540; +254 733552226; Website: www.pdcentre.org/courses

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) Training

Future Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) courses, 2011

Six regional TOT courses are being planned in 2011 for:

- Central Africa
- North Africa
- Middle East
- China/Mongolia
- Latin America
- Caribbean

The LEGS training programme focuses on Training of Trainers (TOT) at regional and national level. The training is based on a basic LEGS training module, which was developed by the team of six consultant trainers and piloted in February 2010.

The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) aims to bring together a single set of international standards and guidelines for livestock emergency interventions. From a global perspective, there is a pressing need to improve livestock relief programming with communities who rely heavily on livestock for their social and economic well-being. LEGS covers livestock interventions in these areas, but also addresses livestock support to settled farming communities and livestock kept

by people in urban areas. Climate change is also resulting in more frequent and diverse types of disaster. Especially vulnerable are livestock-dependent communities in fragile arid and semi-arid environments who are experiencing increasing drought followed by severe flooding. LEGS addresses these and other types of slow and rapid onset emergency.

The graduates of the LEGS regional TOT courses are now LEGS trainers and are available to run the three-day LEGS training courses on demand. If you would like to find out which LEGS Trainers are available in your country or region, please contact the LEGS Coordinator or the LEGS Administrator. The LEGS handbook is now available in French and Arabic, as a free PDF download from the LEGS website: www.livestock-emergency.net.

Funding and hosting partners are needed for regional TOT courses in 2011. Funding is currently being sourced for these courses – please contact the LEGS Coordinator if your organisation can contribute. If you are interested in helping to host one of the courses in your region please contact the LEGS Coordinator.

For more information please contact the LEGS Administrator, The LEGS Project

C/o Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, PO Box 1078, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Email: admin@livestock-emergency.net; or contact: Cathy Watson, LEGS Coordinator: Coordinator@livestock-emergency.net

e-participation

COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION (CLTS) AND SANITATION-RELATED WEBSITES

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

www.communityledtotalsanitation.org

The CLTS website aims to be a global hub for CLTS, connecting the network of practitioners, communities, NGOs, agencies, researchers, governments, donors and others involved or interested in CLTS. The site contains practical information about the approach, information on CLTS in different countries, research papers, relevant news and events and many other useful materials. It intends to serve as an up-to-date virtual resource centre and is a space for sharing and learning on CLTS across organisations, countries and sectors. The site reflects the rich, varied and dynamic nature of the approach and hopes to encourage debate around key aspects of CLTS in order to improve policy and practice.

The Communication Initiative Network: The Drum Beat – Issue 528 – Communicating for Sanitation, February 8 2010

www.comminet.com/en/drum_beat_528.html

This issue looks at sanitation more widely, but there are references to CLTS. It includes:

- Addressing sanitation through behaviour change communication.
- Interact within our new social networking platform!
- Engaging children and communities in sanitation action.

- Social marketing approaches to sanitation.
- Snapshot: how partnerships have supported sanitation communication.

EcoSanRes

<http://www.ecosanres.org>

The EcoSanRes (Ecological Sanitation Research) Programme aims to develop and promote sustainable sanitation in the developing world through capacity development and knowledge management as a contribution to equity, health, poverty alleviation, and improved environmental quality.

International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)

www.irc.nl/

Aims to bridge the knowledge gap and promote joint learning with partners for improved, low-cost water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Information-packed website, including a digital library of grey literature.

Plan International

www.plan-international.org/

Plan, an international NGO focused on children, has taken a leading role in introducing CLTS in East and Southern Africa. Their website includes useful case studies, videos and publications about their CLTS work.

STEPS Centre Water and Sanitation

www.steps-centre.org/ourresearch/water.html

STEPS is a global research and policy

engagement centre, bringing together development studies and science and technology studies. There is a water and sanitation section on the website, with extensive resources.

SuSanA

www.susana.org/

The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) is an informal network of organisations (currently 125 from 45 countries) who share a common vision on sustainable sanitation. Has a documents database, mostly downloadable.

UNICEF

www.unicef.org/

UNICEF aims to help build a world where the rights of every child are realised, working to influence decision-makers, and with a variety of partners at grassroots level. It is active in 190 countries through country programmes and National Committees. Community led approaches to total sanitation are a key element of UNICEF's global WASH strategy. Its website contains a number of case studies of CLTS in East, West and Southern Africa.

Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) Loughborough

www.wedc.lboro.ac.uk/

WEDC is one of the world's leading education and research institutes for developing knowledge and capacity in water and sanitation for low- and middle-income countries. Has many publications to download free of charge.

WaterAid

www.wateraid.org/uk/

WaterAid is an international NGO working to improve access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in It works in 26 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific region. The website has a library of downloadable policy, advocacy and research publications.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

www.wsscc.org

A partnership organisation mandated by the UN, the WSSCC focuses on networking and knowledge management, advocacy and communications and administering a Global Sanitation Fund, The latter provides funding for sanitation initiatives, recognising that sanitation is both vitally important and often neglected.

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

www.watersanitationhygiene.org/

Website containing technical resources and providing a forum for people working in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene.

Water and Sanitation Program

www.wsp.org/wsp/

The Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) is a multi-donor partnership administered by the World Bank to support poor people in obtaining affordable, safe and sustainable access to water and sanitation services. It works directly with client governments at the local and national level in 25 countries through regional offices in Africa, East and South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and in, Washington D.C. Its aim is to share best practice across regions, and it includes various publications on CLTS.

World Toilet Organisation

www.worldtoilet.org

World Toilet Organisation (WTO) is a global non- profit organisation committed to improving toilet and sanitation conditions worldwide. Useful resources section on the website.

GENERAL

Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE)

<http://oare.oaresciences.org/content/en/registration.php>

Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA)

www.aginternetwork.org/en/about_agora/registration/

OARE is an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Yale University and provides free access to environmental science research publications and journals for developing countries. AGORA is administered by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and enables developing countries to gain access to an outstanding digital library collection in the fields of food, agriculture, environmental science and related social sciences. To obtain free access to these two on-line databases, you need to register on the websites. The programmes do not accept registrations from individuals. Eligible institutions are: universities and colleges, research institutes, professional schools, extension centres and experiment stations, teaching hospitals, government offices, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and national libraries.

RCPLA NETWORK

In this section, we update readers on activities of the **Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action Network (RCPLA) Network**

(www.rcpla.org) and its members.

RCPLA is a diverse, international network of national-level organisations, which brings together development practitioners from around the globe. It was formally established in 1997 to promote the use of participatory approaches to development. The network is dedicated to capturing and disseminating development perspectives from the South. For more information please contact the RCPLA Network Steering Group:

RCPLA Coordination and North

Africa & Middle East Region: Ali Mokhtar, Near East Foundation – Middle East Region, Center for Development Services (CDS), 4 Ahmed Pasha Street, 10th Floor, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt.
Tel: +20 2 795 7558
Fax: +20 2 794 7278

Email: cds.prog@neareast.org;
amokhtar@nefdev.org
Website: www.neareast.org/main/cds/default.aspx

Asia Region: Tom Thomas, Director, Institute for Participatory Practices (Praxis), S-75 South Extension, Part II, New Delhi, India 110 049.
Tel/Fax: +91 11 5164 2348 to 51
Email: tomt@praxisindia.org
www.praxisindia.org
Jayatissa Samaranayake, Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID), 591 Havelock Road, Colombo 06, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94 1 555521
Tel/Fax: +94 1 587361
Email: ipidc@panlanka.net

West Africa Region: Awa Faly Ba Mbow, IED-Afrique, BP 5579 Dakar Fann, Senegal.
Tel: +221 33 867 10 58
Fax: +221 33 867 10 59
Email: awafba@iedafrique.org
Website: www.iedafrique.org

European Region: Jane Stevens,
Participation, Power and Social Change,
Institute of Development Studies (IDS),
University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE,
UK.

Tel: + 44 1273 678690

Fax: + 44 1273 21202

Email: participation@ids.ac.uk

Website: www.ids.ac.uk/ids/particip

Participatory Learning and Action Editorial
Team, International Institute for
Environment and Development (IIED),
3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK.

Tel: +44 207 388 2117

Fax: +44 207 388 2826

Email: planotes@iied.org

Website: www.planotes.org

East Africa Region: Eliud Wakwabubi,
Participatory Methodologies Forum of
Kenya (PAMFORK), Jabavu Road, PCEA
Jitegemea Flats, Flat No. D3, PO Box 2645,
KNH Post Office, Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel/Fax: +254 2 716609

Email: eliud.w@pamfork.or.ke

News from the RCPLA Network Coordinator

Welcome to new RCPLA members!

Gozour Foundation for Development –
Egypt

Gozour Foundation aims at tackling the underlying root causes of major societal problems. The Foundation believes that simply addressing the symptoms without addressing the root causes creates more challenges in the long run. Gozour works at the community level with vulnerable and marginalised groups. The Foundation's thematic areas include: child development, women's empowerment, youth development, health awareness, environmental protection and upgrading, cultural conservation and sustainable livelihoods. For more information, please visit: www.gozour.org

The Yemeni Association for Sustainable Agriculture Development – Yemen
The Yemeni Association for Sustainable Agriculture Development (YASAD) was established in 2007 by a group of researchers, academics and technicians to help protect natural resources and improve the living conditions of rural and urban families. YASAD conducts applied research and studies for development and agricultural production purposes, as well as for conserving and enhancing natural and genetic resources. It works to boost collaboration and networking between farmers, national and international organisations and other services sharing the same concerns for developing sustainable agriculture. Additionally, YASAD works closely with farmers to strengthen their agricultural production and sales while focusing on organic farming and supporting them to access international markets. For more information, please visit: www.yasadngo.org

Friends of Al-Jowf for Development – Yemen
Friends of Al-Jowf for Development (FAJD) was founded in 2010 to pursue sustainable development and provide support to vulnerable populations located within the governorate of Al-Jowf who are affected by wars, natural disasters as well as economic and social crises. FAJD aims to become the nexus between emergency, rehabilitation and development activities. Recognising the multitude of internal and external pressures resulting from poverty, tribal conflict and intermittent civil war in northern Yemen, FAJD recognises the immense potential to contribute to the alleviation of the suffering of marginalised populations and provides development projects. FAJD focuses on the following areas: emergency relief, food security, health promotion, education and training, economic development, microfinance, advocacy and institutional support and cultural promotion. For more information, please visit: www.aljowf-friends.org.ye

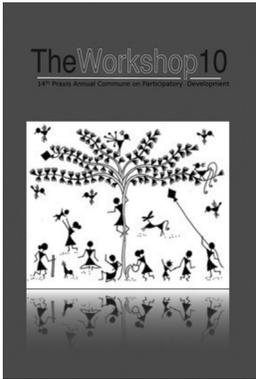
New Development – Jordan
New Development (NDEV) was established in affiliation with the Near East Foundation in 2006 to manage training, consultation, development projects and technical assistance to national development projects and public and private agencies engaged in community and organisational development. NDEV's clients include local and international non-governmental organisations, donors, financial institutions, project teams and government ministries. NDEV is committed to participatory approaches that assist individuals, communities and organisations in defining their developmental priorities and take meaningful steps toward self-directed, self-sustaining change. For more information, please visit: www.ndevjo.com

● *For more information about RCPLA membership, please contact Passinte Isaak on email: pisaak@cds-mena.org*

News from the Asia Region

Praxis

Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices is a not-for-profit organisation, committed to mainstreaming the voices of the poor and marginalised sections of society in the process of development. Based in New Delhi, with branches in Chennai, Patna and London, Praxis works to promote participatory practices in all spheres of human development. Praxis carries out research and consultancies, and also engages in several self-funded initiatives to further the cause of participatory development.



The Workshop '10 Now in its 14th year, the Praxis International Workshop on Participatory Development was held on 22nd – 30th September 2010, at KILA in Thrissur, Kerala, India. The nine-

day workshop brought together development workers, policy makers and proactive individuals, in seeking to enhance their understanding of the theoretical construct of participation and its approaches and tools and to provide participants with the opportunity to apply the same in the field. For more information please visit: www.theworkshop.in or email: info@theworkshop.in

Social Equity Watch

Since September 2009, Praxis has been anchoring the secretariat of Social Equity Watch (SEW). SEW is a platform conceptualised by several donors and

INGOs, for sharing equity concerns and to politically engage in the promotion of social equity in all interventions for development. Through SEW, Praxis has initiated a study called the National Infrastructure Equity Audit, which is envisaged to identify, reveal and systematically address the deep rooted issue of social exclusion with regard to development indicators and infrastructures. It demonstrates the gross inequities that exist with the placement of infrastructure in villages while also exhibiting how this contributes to perpetuating the cycle of poverty for marginalised communities.

Work with sexual minorities and injecting drug users

In its continuing engagement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Praxis is associated with a five-year programme for measuring community mobilisation among female sex workers, men having sex with men, transgender people and injecting drug users in six Indian states (Nagaland, Manipur, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu). In parallel, it is engaged in building networks of the above communities across the six states in India.

Films and publications

For the latest from our films and publications unit including details on 'Landlessness and Social Justice' – a book on land mapping across 37 locations in Bihar, a publication on Patna's Urban Poverty and a film on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – please visit: www.praxisindia.org

News from the European Region

Institute for Development Studies (IDS)

The Participation, Power and Social Change Team at IDS have continued to deepen their research and activities over the last few months.

The Power Cube

Work on power relations resulted in the launch of the Power Cube, a new online resource on power analysis for social change. It aims to provide practical and conceptual methods, materials and resources to help practitioners think about and respond to power relations within their organisations and across wider social and political spaces and institutions. For more information, please visit: www.powercube.net

The Crisis Watch Network

The Crisis Watch Network, a cross-team initiative, organised a successful workshop on the theme of Complex Crises: the Challenge of Evidence for Policy. The workshop brought together those in research, policy and practice in relation to global economic crises across several countries. The Citizenship Development Research Centre has collected more than 150 case studies examining how citizen action shapes states and societies, and has subsequently created a series of two-page summaries entitled *Citizens in Action*. These aim to provide a clear and concise exposition of the diverse ways that citizens claim their rights – everything from everyday acts to global activism.

Pathways of Women's Empowerment

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme Consortium is synthesising findings from a variety of their research outputs. These include a new e-journal called *Contestations*. Launched in May 2010, it provides a space for debating issues and narratives around women's empowerment. For more information, please visit: www.contestations.net

The Big Push Back

More than 70 development researchers and practitioners met at IDS in September to take their first steps

towards resisting the new 'audit culture' of philanthropic foundations and government ministries. Participants at the day-long event The Big Push Back developed strategies to counter the trend which sees funding organisations increasingly supporting only those programmes designed to deliver easily measurable results. The event was convened by IDS Fellow Rosalind Eyben who called for action, concerned that the dominance of narrow numbers-based research is ineffectual in tackling poverty.

Participants welcomed the possibility of collective research and action in order to start a dialogue with donors and create more space for development that leads to social transformation. They considered the following as ways forward:

- Building 'counter-narratives' that emphasise accountability to those for whom international aid exists.
- Developing innovative communication channels in order to better communicate with the public the complex nature of development.
- Developing different methods of reporting, so that the requirement for aggregated numbers at Northern policy level captures the character of programming in complex development contexts.
- Collaborating with people working for change inside donor agencies.
- Reclaiming the term 'value for money'.
- Enhancing organisational learning and reflective practice to nurture out-of-the-box thinking and approaches.
- Scrutinising the role of big business in development aid and its impact on discourse, quality and accountability.

Participants also suggested making such meetings annual and, in the meantime, networking with each other and other interested parties. The Participation, Power and Social Change Team is exploring the possibility of resources to support communications and knowledge-sharing among an informal

network of practitioners and researchers pursuing these strategies. For further information contact: r.eyben@ids.ac.uk

Other news from the Participation, Power and Social Change Team

The team has been busy with publications too. Following several years working with pastoralists in East Africa, Patta Scott-Villiers has written *Raising Voice – Securing a Livelihood: The role of diverse voices in developing secure livelihoods in pastoralist areas in Ethiopia*. Two new books were published as a result of The Citizenship Development Research Centre research: *Citizenship and Social Movements*, focusing on the under-examined significance of collective action in the global South, and *Citizen Action and National Policy Change*, which brings together eight country case studies of successful cases of citizen activism for national policy changes. Three IDS Bulletins have also emerged: *Reflecting Collectively on Capacities for Change* which argues for a reframing of capacity development that more fully takes into account power, complexity, culture and context; *Negotiating Empowerment* which looks at some of the dilemmas around women's empowerment; and *Hybrid Public Action* which looks at how previously separate debates in international development are now converging.

The team has also welcomed new and returning members: Alex Shankland and Patta Scott-Villiers have both returned to the team after periods working away, and Akshay Khanna will be joining us in the autumn. In addition the team is delighted to have a new team leader – Danny Burns who will take up this post in September. Together the team is working on new and exciting proposals for future work. The

above are just a few highlights – for more information please visit: www.ids.ac.uk or email: J.Stevens@ids.ac.uk

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

The Human Settlements Group's work on urban sanitation

The Human Settlements Group at IIED has until fairly recently been managing a project called *Improving water and sanitation provision globally through information and action driven locally*.¹

The goal was to enhance the ability of local organisations to document and share their successful local solutions to sanitation and water problems in low-income urban areas. The project also looked at how local organisations in those countries have managed to:

- scale up successful projects;
- work collaboratively;
- finance water and sanitation schemes; and
- use information systems such as mapping to drive local action and monitor improvements.

The initiatives have all been successful and path-breaking. They also all involved NGOs with an intimate working knowledge of the communities and a strong commitment to the principles of participation. Moreover, while all the NGOs claim a primary allegiance to the communities, they have all taken the strategic decision to collaborate with local government. None have simply made demands on behalf of low-income communities, on the grounds that the public sector must provide basic water and sanitation services. Alternatively, none have simply tried to help deprived communities to provide their own water and sanitation. In every case there have been periods when groups of residents

¹ The project involved Development Workshop in Angola, IIED-America Latina in Argentina, People's Dialogue in Ghana, The Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), India and the Orangi Pilot Project in Pakistan.

have taken on responsibilities conventionally associated with public providers, and periods when the principal focus has been on changing the practices of public utilities or authorities themselves. Some of the biggest challenges have been to improve the quality of collaboration:

- among local residents; and
- between local residents and the public agencies with whom they must engage.

This has typically involved redefining responsibilities for water and sanitation provision, not on the basis of abstract principles, but to accommodate practical realities.

The outputs of this project include the following – read more online:

- *Lessons from Karachi: the role of demonstration, documentation, mapping and relationship building in advocacy for improved urban sanitation and water services.* Online: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=10560IIED
- *Water service provision for the peri-urban poor in post-conflict Angola.* Online: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=10577IIED
- *Improving water and sanitation provision globally through information sharing.* (Waterlines Journal, Volume 27, Number 2, April 2008).
- *Water was a dream video* Online: www.iied.org/human-settlements/key-issues/urban-environment/video-water-was-dream-part-1-4.
- *Improving water and sanitation provision in Buenos Aires. What can a research oriented NGO do?* Online: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=10583IIED
- *Urban water and sanitation in Ghana: how local action is making a difference.* Online: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=10586IIED

Currently, the Human Settlements Group is also part of the DfID-funded Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity (SHARE) consortium that is focusing on research to improve sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.² SHARE's objective is to meet the need for sanitation provision, especially in urban areas, by developing and disseminating improved practices and products in this neglected sector. As the world places increasing emphasis on boosting sanitation coverage, the focus is on doing so sustainably. This requires that interventions respond to demand, which is poorly understood, for lack of consultation with consumers, empowerment of community representatives, or market research. Systems must also bridge the gap between the individual, who usually makes investment decisions, and the community, which benefits. Solutions also have to meet the particular needs of the least empowered, the poor and women especially.

Changing the status quo also requires new knowledge but also a greater attention to the process by which knowledge is transformed into changed policy and practice through effective communications. The SHARE consortium sets out to get both existing (but neglected) knowledge and SHARE-generated knowledge into action.

Regarding the knowledge needed to increase sustainable access to and uptake of sanitation, the research questions that SHARE will be addressing can be grouped under four main themes: equity, health, sanitation markets and urban solutions. As part of the programme, IIED and SDI plan to lead the consortium on the following initiatives:

² SHARE is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The other partners include the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR), WaterAid UK and the Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI). DfID has decided to fund this research for the next five years because sanitation has been found to be lagging behind other MDG targets and yet sanitation and hygiene are fundamental requirements for all the MDGs.

Developing, testing, sharing and documenting sanitation innovations in low-income urban neighbourhoods: this will be an action-research project to be carried out in Southern Africa and will explore and develop sanitation models that may be appropriate in locations across the region. This collaborative action research will assess the effectiveness of these initiatives, compare their organisational and technological models, investigate their capacity to scale up to the city level with particular consideration to financing strategies, explain maintenance issues, and identify health impacts.

Assessment of scaling up strategies in community-led urban sanitation: in this study, SDI in collaboration with IIED and other consortium members will be investigating the processes used by SPARC, Mahila Milan (MM) and the National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF) in India, to scale up their community-led sanitation initiatives in Pune and Mumbai in India. The documented evidence will provide lessons needed at community level and local government level for similar initiatives to work.

For more information, please contact: Martin Mulenga, Senior Researcher, Human Settlements Group, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Email: martin.mulenga@iied.org

Community-based adaptation to climate change

Following on from the success of *PLA 60 Community-based adaptation to climate change*, which included edited case studies from the Third International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation, IIED's Climate Change Group is publishing abstracts from presentations made at the Fourth

International Conference, held in February 2010 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. A copy can be downloaded at: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=10028IIED.

This publication is the first in a new collection which will document work with researchers and partners in the Climate Change Group. The second will look at how pastoralists in eastern Niger are responding to climatic, economic and political change, and will be published in English and French. To watch a video of the project, which was shown at the Development and Climate days at COP15 in Copenhagen, please visit IIED's website: <http://tinyurl.com/cba-morning-light>³

Updates from IIED's Forestry Team: Growing Forest Partnerships

Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) is an initiative designed to facilitate local and international partnerships and investment to support stakeholders in their efforts to improve forest livelihoods and ecosystem services. GFP started pilot processes in three countries: Ghana, Guatemala and Mozambique, and has now begun work in Bolivia, Liberia and Nepal.



GFP has also been supporting an international process looking at investing in locally controlled forestry. This has been supporting three international alliances of forest 'rights holders' – the people who live in, depend on and are the traditional owners and guardians of a huge part of the world's forests – to explore the challenges they are facing in getting adequate support – financial, technical, political – for their management of their forest resources. Part of this is supporting those alliances to strengthen their voices and their

³ Full URL: www.iied.org/climate-change/key-issues/community-based-adaptation/diffa-morning-light

messages, through a range of actions. Part has been to hold dialogues with investors and other forest actors, exploring those challenges and identifying possible solutions, a process which has been facilitated by The Forests Dialogue. And in the longer run, it is hoped that these dialogues and the links made through the increased profile of forest rights holders at an international level will result in concrete actions and partnerships that are working to strengthen the management of forests by rights holders on the ground.

● For more information visit the dedicated website:

www.growingforestpartnerships.org

Updates from IIED's Food and Agriculture Team

Strengthening local voices in the governance of food systems, land use and the environment

The Food and Agriculture Team at IIED is working with partners on an action research programme to identify and support processes that can help democratise the governance of food systems, land use and the environment. It seeks to find more equitable ways of including citizens in policy making and in the design of technologies and institutions that shape food systems and the environment. In each of the case studies identified, different participatory methodologies and institutional innovations are combined to create safe spaces for citizen deliberation and inclusion in policy making, institutional choices, risk assessments and the design of technologies.

● For more information visit:

[http://tinyurl.com/local-voices-food⁴](http://tinyurl.com/local-voices-food<sup>4</sup)

Sustaining local food systems, agricultural biodiversity and livelihoods

Through participatory research and dialogue in India, Iran, Peru and Indonesia, IIED's Food and Agriculture Team aims to analyse how and under what conditions decentralised governance, capacity building and participation by farmers can promote the adaptive management of agricultural biodiversity in the context of local food systems and livelihoods.⁵

● For more information visit:

[http://tinyurl.com/slfsa⁶](http://tinyurl.com/slfsa<sup>6</sup)

Transforming agri-food research for citizen participation and the public good

Public funded research shapes the choices that are available to farmers, food workers and consumers and the environments in which they live and work. There is an increasing need to explore ways of democratising the governance of science and technology, ensuring that it continues to serve the public good rather than narrow economic interests.

This action research programme supports the participatory design (by producers and consumers) of an agri-food research system that is democratic and accountable. Working with partners in South Asia, West Africa, West Asia, the Andean countries of Latin America and Europe this multiregional process of citizens' deliberations seeks to strengthen local voices and agency in national and international decision making.

● For more information visit:

[http://tinyurl.com/transform-agri-food-research⁷](http://tinyurl.com/transform-agri-food-research<sup>7</sup)

⁴ Full URL: www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/food-and-agriculture/strengthening-local-voices-governance-food-systems

⁵ See the In Touch section of this issue for information on the participatory videos that partners have produced on food sovereignty.

⁶ Full URL: www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/biodiversity-and-conservation/sustaining-local-food-systems-agricultura

⁷ Full URL: www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/food-and-agriculture/transforming-agri-food-research-for-citizen-participation-and-public-good

Protecting community rights over traditional knowledge

This project explores the customary laws and practices of indigenous and local communities to identify appropriate mechanisms for protecting their resource rights and knowledge systems. It involves participatory research at community level to strengthen local capacity and provide information at local, national and international levels.

We are applying the Code of Ethics of the International Society of Ethnobiology in conducting this research. Our work is grounded in the concept of 'Collective Bio-Cultural Heritage'. This concept, initially developed by the Asociación ANDES, Peru, recognises the interlinked nature of traditional knowledge, biodiversity, landscapes, culture and customary laws.

A new short film *Heritage on the Edge* explores the status and threats to bio-cultural heritage, and the responses needed. <http://tiny.cc/Oyutm8>

⁸ Full URL: www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/biodiversity-and-conservation/protecting-community-traditional-knowledg

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