The Commons Digest

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Since the end of the 13th IASC Global Conference in Hyderabad, the Executive Council has approved one global conference and two meetings. The next Global Conference will be at the foot of Mount Fuji in Kitafuji, Japan, in the summer of 2013; in addition, the Asian Regional Meeting will be held Ulan Bator, Mongolia, in June 2012, and our 1st Thematic Meeting on "knowledge commons" is scheduled for September 2012 in Louvain-La-Nouve, Belgium. Our European meeting ("Shared Resources in a Rapidly Changing World") will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, this coming September.

This special edition of *The Commons Digest* focuses on our extremely successful meeting in Hyderabad this past January. The first article is the splendid presidential address given by Dr. Ruth Meinzen-Dick, in which she highlighted recent milestones in the history and work of IASC. The first milestone was Elinor Ostrom's 2009 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for her work on the commons; Dr. Ostrom is a founding member of IASC and our first president. The second milestone was Ruth's participation in a meeting with Indian officials, including the Prime Minister, on ways to strengthen commons institutions in India. In her address, Ruth emphasized the balance in IASC between scholars and practitioners; the Hyderabad conference was a unique demonstration of that balance since it was the first meeting in our history that was sponsored by a practitioner organization.

This number of the Digest showcases some of the highlights of the Hyderabad meeting: excerpts from the speech of Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of the Environment and Forests in India; the final conference report from the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) presented by Jagdeesh Rao Puppala, and a thoughtful report on the Hyderabad meeting from Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the English Open Spaces Society.

This issue includes, as always, the valuable updates to the Digital Library of the Commons (DLC) at Indiana University, compiled by Emily Castle, Director of the DLC.

Finally, please read the invitation to join IASC written by Elinor Ostrom, past (and first) president of IASC, member of IASC, and Nobel Laureate. Your continued membership in IASC is vital to our shared commitment to commons governance and scholarship.

Susan Buck
President, IASC

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IASC 2011
EUROPEAN MEETING

IASC European Regional Meeting

September 14-17, 2011

The conference is organized jointly by:

Achim Schlüter, from the Leibniz Centre of Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) and Jacobs University both in Bremen, Germany

Insa Theesfeld, from the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO) Halle, Germany

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Achieving Impact: Plurality and Partnerships for the Commons

IASC 2011 Presidential Address
Ruth Meinzen-Dick

This is a dream come true in so many ways—giving a presidential address to the International Association for the Study of the Commons in India, where I grew up, and where I did my first studies on the commons.

I think I'm also the only IASC president to give two presidential addresses—since my predecessor, Owen Lynch, was unable to attend the Cheltenham Conference. So when preparing for today, I looked back at what I had said then. The conclusion was:

Photo: IASC

A dream comes true: Dr. Ruth Meinzen-Dick giving her presidential address on January 12th in Hyderabad.

"I may be dreaming, but I would like to see that when we meet again in two years, the widespread connotation of the "commons" is not a tragic relic of the past, but a vibrant hope for our shared future. And furthermore, that as an association and as individuals we will have contributed to making this happen.

Little did I realize then how far we might have come by this conference! Let me cite just a few examples of this, and then turn to an analysis of how, as an association and as individuals, we achieve impacts.

The awarding of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences to Elinor Ostrom for her work on governing the commons has been perhaps the biggest step toward gaining recognition of the importance of the commons—and of studies of the commons.

In November 2010 I attended a meeting on the commons in Berlin that brought together many activists and those who work on urban, digital, and what we may think of as "new" commons, talking about commons as a social movement, using new technologies to connect people at a global scale.

In Delhi I was privileged to meet the Prime Minister of India and be part of discussions on how to strengthen the commons in India, including through the 12th Five Year Plan.

Herman Rosa, Minister of Environment from El Salvador, is working to address local, national and global commons issues—translating ideas into practice.

I work at a development policy research institute, and we are increasingly being asked to demonstrate our impact, as a way of justifying the resources invested in our work. What they seem to want is to hear that our research recommended (prescribed) a change in policies that were then adopted, and caused such and such changes. I have trouble with this in my own work because I don't think that there is such a linear pathway from research through policies to impact. But it is even harder to determine the impact of a network organization like IASC. How do we assess the impact of the

association, as apart from its members?

As I was thinking about this, two terms come to mind: Plurality and Partnerships.

I would suggest that the impact of IASC is not apart from the members, but it is through bringing together diverse sets of people so that collectively we can do what none of us alone could do.

The first type of plurality is of **discipline**. One common thread at IASC meetings is that you find a lot of people who are not comfortable within the limits of their "own" discipline. They've realized that to solve problems you often need to reach across to other disciplines, and this is a place where you can make those connections.

The second plurality is of **type of commons**. Comparing forests and fisheries can provide insights on both. As a researcher working on water in South Asia, I was surprised how studies of pastoralism in Africa could help me to see things in a new light.

A third type of plurality comes from the **international character** of our organization: 69 countries represented here at the Hyderabad meeting.

But there are other international, interdisciplinary organizations. What makes IASC unique in terms of being able to achieve impact is the fourth type of plurality: we have a balance between scholars and practitioners of many different types.

- **Theoretical scholars** shape paradigms and thinking. Theories shape how we understand the world, and how we react to it. Just look at how influential Garret Hardin's "tragedy of the commons" has been in pushing for either privatization or nationalization of the commons in so many countries. Or more positively, look at the influence of *Governing the Commons*.

- **Applied researchers** gather evidence, test theories, and feed field reality back to challenge the paradigms. The first time I did field work on the commons for my master's thesis, what I found in the field surprised me, and took me in a different direction. At first I thought I wasn't a good researcher. Now I know any field work where I am not surprised is somehow wasted since it means I hadn't been open to seeing the unexpected.

- **Practitioners** like NGOs work with communities to try to apply the lessons and insights form theories and applied research to strengthen the management of the commons. IASC provides a venue where they can feed their findings back into research, and even help to reshape our theories.

- **Policymakers** in government and international organizations grapple with how to apply the lessons at broader scales. In the past I think there has been a tendency to see the state as a threat to communal institutions, but I hope we are moving beyond that, to recognize that there is a vital role for the state in supporting the commons—recognizing rights, and working with communities.

- **Commoners themselves**, who bear the greatest responsibility for the commons. All of our meetings involve some forms of exchanges with commoners, whether through a field trip or their own presentations of their work. I would suggest that this is something that would be good for us to expand—to bring in more people with first-hand experience in managing a commons, as well as to increase the recognition that we are all commoners.

The value, the impact of IASC, lies in bringing all of these together to form partnerships, not only facilitating, but also validating, their exchange of knowledge. I think we have a strong basis for claiming that much of this sharing of knowledge across disciplines, resources, and countries would not take place without IASC. But the validation is also important. "Interdisciplinary" is often professional suicide for academics—it's frankly seen as second rate. But IASC has become a gathering of top thinkers and do-ers that sharpen our thinking. In the second

IASC meeting I attended, Douglass North, who had just won the Nobel Prize in Economics, gave the keynote. Being able to quote him in explaining what I do literally made all the difference in getting my colleagues to try to understand. And being around Elinor Ostrom has always been enriching, even before her Nobel Prize. Having reviewed over a hundred abstracts for this conference, I can tell you there are many other people here that you can learn from, as well.

As an association, we have a lot to be proud of in terms of our impact—not just in the sharing of knowledge, but also in promoting appropriate institutional design.

I'm not saying this to congratulate ourselves—rather, to encourage us to do more, and more effectively. For example, are we going to take up the invitation offered by Sri Jairam Ramesh, to become involved in the thinking of his ministry?

This can be scary, and I won't say we will always get it right. There have been policy swings, from state control to local management. I've been a part of that change in irrigation, when studies of farmer-managed irrigation suggested that they performed better than many government-managed systems. This led to widespread adoption of irrigation management transfer or participatory irrigation management, when responsibility for (parts of) government systems were transferred to water users' associations on a massive scale in some countries (including here in Andhra Pradesh). When, due to a range of factors (including poor implementation), many of these programs failed to live up to their (often inflated) expectations, these programs were deemed a failure, and the policy pendulum swung away. But rather than an either/or of collectives or the state and markets, it should be a balancing act among these types of institutions, with scope to adjust to changes over time. It is not a matter of the right formulas, but the ability to work together, to ask the right questions, and share what we are learning.

Let me suggest that to increase our positive impact, we need to increase our involvement with several other key partners:

- I've already mentioned doing more directly with **commoners**.

- Another key group is the **media**. We need to get the message about the importance of the commons out to a broader public, including the urban middle class. Let's engage with them, learn from their questions, and work with them to reach out and shape public thinking on these topics.
- Finally, I would suggest that we need to develop more **textbooks and training**. How we train the next generation—of people and of scholars—will shape how the commons is managed and studied. Are they going to continually be subjected to self-fulfilling prophesies of the tragedy of the commons, or will they learn to identify the commons in their own lives? We also need textbooks and training that will equip the next generation with the skills for self-governance, so they can put this into practice.

In 2008, I took my daughter to the IASC Cheltenham Conference, where she got to learn from Elinor Ostrom and other great scholars and activists working on the commons. When she started at the University in 2010, her microeconomics professor was teaching them about the "tragedy of the commons." Laura replied that the tragedy of the commons was not inevitable. The professor said "I think most economists would disagree with you." My daughter, who was so thrilled that Lin Ostrom had won the Nobel Prize, said "the Nobel committee would agree with me. They awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics to Ostrom for her work on the commons." At which point, the professor backed down.

Laura is an example, of how through increasing our involvement in training and education (textbooks) we can achieve greater results and have a greater positive impact on the commons, and the commoners alike.

Thank you all.

Speech at IASC's 13th Biennial Conference Opening Ceremony

Shri Jairam Ramesh

Minister of the Environment and Forests, India

The following essay contains excerpts from Shri Jairam Ramesh's lengthy speech at the opening of the 13th Biennial IASC conference in Hyderabad, India.

Photo: IASC

Guest of Honour, Shri Jairam Ramesh (Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India).

I am delighted and privileged to be here among so many academic scholars from all over the world. It has been one of my endeavours in my ministerial positions, to bridge the gap between the academic world and the "real" world. Unfortunately, I have not always been successful because, as I was mentioning to Professor Ostrom recently in New Delhi, academics measure time in terms of years and decades, and those of us here in the real world measure it in months, while some of us, who are part of endangered species, might even look at it in days. So, it has been very difficult to get academics involved. In the last nineteen months in this ministry, I have made a conscious effort to involve academics, (some of them are very distinguished students of Dr. Ostrom). Involving academics in the process of decision making, policy formulation, and policy monitoring is not always successful; very often, in getting three academics together, you end up having three acrimonious opinions, not always been a very positive result to say the least. But, nevertheless, it has been my endeavour and that is one of the reasons why I readily accepted the invitation to join you all and I think this is an opportunity for listening and reading a most valuable set of papers.

I have also had the privilege of listening to Prof. Ostrom and commenting on her presentation a couple of days ago in New Delhi where she focused on one commons – the management of forests based on the case studies that she had done the Tadoba-Andhari Landscape in Maharashtra, the Mahananda landscape in West Bengal. It was a very thoughtful discussion and opened up many areas of thought and thinking as far as how we manage forests is concerned. In this job that I have, without necessarily being aware that it is a commons issue, one of the big challenges for me of course has been to look at global commons, the debate on climate change, the regional commons, issues of rivers, management of rivers and aquifers, and the local commons, such as the management of forests.

And in all three levels and scales of my involvement, I have found the writings of Professor Ostrom (oh whom I was aware even before I became minister), most fruitful and the one phrase that has stuck throughout in my mind is the need to reject institutional monoculture and following a polycentric approach when it comes to dealing with the effects of these commons and ensuring that access issues and equity issues are addressed.

Teaching on Commons Issues: Global, Regional and Local Scales

I would like to share with you some of the teachings that I have learned in each of these three areas that I have enumerated –the global commons issue, the regional commons issue and the local commons issue.

Let me start with the global commons issue, the most current and contemporary of which is the whole debate on climate change. Professor Ostrom herself has written a very enlightened paper, as part of the World Development Report of the World Bank. What I find frustrating on the debate of climate change has been the complete lack of communication between the negotiators and the academics. All the interesting work on climate change is taking place in the academic world and the negotiators, in their world of round brackets, square brackets, footnotes and distinctions, such fine distinctions of 'shall' and 'will' and 'could' and 'should' are completely oblivious to the work of Jeffrey Frankel at Harvard, Michael Spence of Stanford, Shelling or Prof. Ostrom herself. I think this has been a great tragedy and one of the things I have been involved in is to try and get the negotiating community to look at this whole academic literature that now exists in the climate change area because central to a successful negotiation is how we address the issue of equity.

Commons and differentiated responsibility is not the "be all and end all" of the equity issue of climate change. There are access issues —access to atmospheric space and of course there is the equity issue as to how we are going to equitably move from 380 ppm carbon concentration to a 450 ppm carbon concentration. The conventional Indian approach to defining equitable access is the per-capita approach because it suits us very well.

One of the problems in the international climate change discussions has been the complete absence of any economic criteria. There is graduation in the discussions on climate change as we move up the per-capita income ladder, countries taking on greater and greater responsibilities; that notion is not existent in the current architecture of climate change. Many people in the academic community now really need to devise not a formula, to use Prof. Ostrom's language, but a set of formulas which will ensure equitable access to sustainable development. I think if we are not going to change the holy grail of the formula, of the framework, we are not going to succeed because we cannot get an agreement among some 193 countries. But If we are going to have, like Dr. Ostrom has been saying, a variety of approaches, a diversity of solutions, depending on context, maybe we will be able to succeed and revisit this after a couple of years of experience with the framework that we put in place now.

I think the big challenge for commons researchers in the climate change area is to give operational meaning to what in Cancun was agreed to the whole concept of equitable access to sustainable development. First of all, we have to define what sustainable development is, and we owe its definition to Mr. Nitin Desai, who defined it 22 years ago in the 5th planning commission as "the ability of a generation to meet its consumption needs without endangering the ability of a future generation."

That was the kind of definition for sustainable development, but now we have to give it operational meaning and work out a framework that ensures equitable access which looks at population, per capita income, and which also looks at internal issues of distribution because, a country like India, which is rightly concerned about the equality of access on the international scale, cannot be oblivious to differences of access internally. This is now a big issue that we as a country have to come to grip with. We are world leaders when it comes to talking about international inequality but somehow we feel shy of dealing with domestic inequality. The domestic inequality in access to sustainable development today is a very serious issue that policy makers and academics have to come to terms with. So, on

the Global commons issue, how do you define equity in the achievement of this goal, without necessarily endangering the growth prospects of developing countries?

In talking of the regional commons issues, take a river water system, a river basin, as good examples of a regional common. One of the big issues we are confronted with is the existence of multiple objectives in the management of the region. Take a river basin for example; 20 years ago, the concept of a minimum environmental flow did not exist in our policy discourse. We planned a series of Hydel power projects, we planned a series of irrigation projects, we had a series of drinking water projects, and today we are finding that many of our important and ecologically sensitive river systems do not have what ecologists are coming to call now as the minimum environmental flow. How do we deal with issues of minimum environmental flow when we have multiple pressures on the commons, on the river systems?

Finally, the issue of local commons: Dr. Ostrom alluded in her talk to our discussion earlier this afternoon on the issue of how we manage our forests. Perhaps we are asking the wrong question by asking "what is the best way to manage our forests?" The question should be: what are the sets of best ways of managing the forests?" This is the wrong question that we have asked and we often come up with the wrong solutions. I think, today, as far as forests are concerned there is an increasing recognition not just of the ecological role they perform; we know that in terms of social and economic values, our forests play a very important role. The people who have worked with Indian forests know that over 200 - 250 million Indians depend on forests for their livelihoods, a fact which is very often forgotten by the forest department. I hasten to add that I very much include myself and I think the challenge before us, in managing this huge local commons called the Indian Forests, is to recognise not just their ecological value —to be brought into public discussion—, but also the age-old economic and social functions our forests perform, which unfortunately over the years, our laws have not been able to recognise and enshrine. Our challenge in managing the local commons lies in changing the mindset that we have had in managing the forests and recognising not just the quantity of forests, but the quality of forests, and also in recognising that forests have not just an ecological function but more importantly and fundamentally a very important social and economic function.

Photo: IASC

Conference chair, Nitin Desai in IASC 2011 Inaugural Ceremony held in in Shilpakala Vedia in Shilparamam on 10th jan, 2011.

Now, I will address the question Mr. Nitin Desai asked: "what is standing in the way of implementing the laws we have for managing our common pool resources?" It is a very interesting question and I have several answers. The first is the development dynamics; the second is the issue that Dr. Ostrom has raised—institutional monoculture; the third is the split responsibilities that we have in our polity.

Development Dynamics

It is time for India to recognise, accept, acknowledge, and appreciate that 9% rate of economic growth will extract an ecological cost. There is a trade-off between a series of ecological and economic objectives and the job is to make these trades-offs explicit and make these choices. In most cases, we may be able to have both. In fact Al Beruni, thousand years ago, defined India and Indian culture in his book —the most beautifully ever written Indian—, of course at that time all Indians

were Hindus, and they are a very peculiar race. He writes that when confronted with a choice, Hindus choose both. It is part of our DNA, part of our culture; we can have economic growth and we can protect our environment. This is a very nice concept to have.

There is also a concept to work towards that I want to suggest today and maybe this is why I am becoming increasingly unpopular, there are cases when you have to make a choice. It is society that makes the choice, our systems that make the choice, parliament must make the choice. These are tough choices; we have tough calls to be made. If there is a forest area and Prof. Ostrom, in her presentation in New Delhi showed as first slide the Todoba Andhari Tiger reserve, which was a case study along with Nagendra. Today, the Tadoba Andhari Tiger reserve is threatened not because of cattle, not because of local encroachers, it is threatened by a coal mine that needs to be opened up for generating power. This is a choice we have to make. Does the Indian political system want to protect the Tadoba Andhari Tiger reserve? Which, by the way, is not just a tiger reserve; it is actually an ecosystem, a large habitat, a large landscape. Are we going to protect this eco-landscape? Or are we going to open it up in the name of economic growth?

We have to make choices and consider trade-offs. Do you want to replace a natural forest with a monoculture plantation—one who's ecological value will be much less; or, do we want water in our rivers, or do we want tunnels in our rivers. I am putting it very starkly. The fact of the matter is that today, in many rivers in India you can only see tunnels, you can't see water. These are, I would say, not technocratic choices, not scientific choices, these are political choices. But what the ecological implications of these choices will be is something we need to understand better. How do we manage this trade-off in cases in which there is a direct conflict between the growth objective and the conservation objectives? We try to reconcile to the maximum extent possible, but where reconciliation is not possible, how does society and society's democratic institutions deal with it?

Institutional Monoculture

My second answer to Nitin is that institutional monoculture is standing in the way of implementing laws. On the one side we have a mind-set which says, only the State can be a sustainable and effective guardian of common pool resources. And then of course we have well meaning, professionally well-qualified, very aggressive, very vocal civil society activists, many of whom are present in the audience today, who believe that the state is the enemy of the sustainable management and there is only the "community" to use your language madam, which can manage these resources. They are guilty of propagating institutional monoculture and as I pointed out in my response to your lecture in New Delhi, I think the time has come for us to allow for a multiplicity of institutional models, to allow for

Photo: IASC

During IASC 2011 Inaugural Ceremony.

experimentation, to allow for different ways of managing common pool resources.

Just two days ago, I released a new set of laws for managing our coastal areas. We have 7 500 km coastland and we have one law, one institutional model for managing these 7 500 km coastland. We have introduced the new law, which recognises that Goa is unique, that greater Bombay is unique, Mumbai is unique, because it is the only island city that we have, which recognises the backwaters of Kerala are unique, which recognises the Sunderbans, Chilka, Lakshadweep, Andamans, are unique. So we have a national law, the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, but which has these niches, these windows, which allows for diversity of situations. I think one of the reasons, why we are ineffective in implementing the laws is because our laws are predicated on institutional monocultures. We do not allow for regional variation, India is a land of enormous ecological diversity, and we still insist on the primacy of the state. Or sometimes when we get frustrated we sing the virtues of self-governance or empowerment as a substitute for effective good governance as part of the state. I think Professor Ostrom's insights on institutional monoculture are very important here. And we need to have a relook at our legal regime and the basis on which these legal regimes rest. The very premise of many of our laws, the institutional premise of our laws, and the procedural premises of our laws needs to be rerouted quite substantially and significantly. For example, the Indian Forest Act of 1927 is predicated on the assumption that people who depend on forests for their daily sustenance are criminals. That is the unwritten premise of the Indian Forest Act.

Split Responsibility

The third problem we have in implementing the laws is the split responsibility. All our laws are federal and all of the management and implementation is at the stake of the local level; the responsibility, for implementation lies at the provincial and local levels. And we have not, as a country, devised a set of incentives which will stimulate responsible environmental governance at sub-national levels, and we should act to the deterrent to sub-optimal environmental governance at the sub-national levels. So I think these split responsibilities is something we need to come to grip with; in our federal system of resource sharing we have been able to bring about some changes. We have made a small beginning, but I believe this split responsibility in our federal system is in some ways a deterrent and more and more the laws are coming at a national level. In my scheme of things the biggest constraint in implementing the laws we have for managing common pool resources is the mindsets it is the old mindset of those involved in managing these common pool resources. We need to have a completely new approach.

Thank you for your time this evening; I am not an academic scholar, but as I said at the outset I am a bit of an intellectual scavenger. I read a lot of material and literature and try to extract from them useful policy lessons and I personally have found Professor Ostrom's work most insightful and most useful. Very simple, yet actually very important, I think are the insights that you have shared with us today madam, which will enable us particularly in managing our common pool resources in a much effective manner which will meet not just the objective of efficiency but more importantly, as Nitin reminds us, also meet the objectives of equity.

Please allow me thank Jagdeesh Rao in the Foundation for Ecological Security for giving this opportunity and I look forward to a continued association with the large community of scholars and I have an open invitation to all these scholars, I would be more than delighted to involve you in the thinking of my ministry with the only caveat that if you want to be of any use to me, please give me output in a matter of months and not in 5 years or 6 years to provide the first draft of your study.

Thank you very much!

IASC

FES
FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

commons
13th IASC International Conference
10 - 14 January 2011, Hyderabad, INDIA
Sustaining Commons: Sustaining Our Future

Foundation for Ecological Security Report on 13th Biennial Conference of IASC Hyderabad IASC 2011

Jagdeesh Rao Puppala

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Welcoming IASC 13th Global Conference participants at the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of Andhra Pradesh.

The 13th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) "Sustaining commons: Sustaining our future" was held in Hyderabad, India from January 10 to 14, 2011. The Conference took place in South Asia for the first time; and in a departure from the past, was hosted by a practitioner organization Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)

IASC 2011 took a critical look at the interaction between human and natural systems, commons in particular, to build on our understanding of the elements and interconnectedness that sustain life, collective action and our future. By placing the conference agenda amidst the ongoing discussions on agrarian distress and rural livelihoods, on social exclusion, on decentralization and local governance, and on environment, development and climate change, the conference was designed to act as an interface between policy, practice and theory covering issues from the developing and developed world, at local and global scales.

The Conference dealt with physical common resources such as forests, grazing resources, protected areas, water resources, fisheries, coastal commons, lagoon commons, irrigation systems, livestock and commons, and new commons such as information commons, cultural commons, genetic resources, patents, climate, etc. These were captured under the following sub-themes: the commons, poverty and social exclusion; governance of the commons: decentralization, property rights, legal framework, structure and organization; the commons: theory, analytics and data; globalisation, commercialisation and the commons; managing the global commons: climate change and other challenges; managing complex commons (lagoons, protected areas, wetlands, mountain areas, rangelands, coastal commons); new commons (digital commons, genetic commons, patents, music, literature etc.)

The Conference truly emerged as a knowledge exchange platform, drawing the interest and

participation of practitioners, academicians and policy makers alike, who came together to share and learn from their experiences in collective action and local self-governance. This edition of the Conference witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 800 delegates from 69 different countries across the globe. More than a 1 000 abstracts were received from participants belonging to over 80 countries, with video presentations too, making their way to the academic program for the first time in IASC history. All the abstracts were blind reviewed by at least two reviewers with more than 70 international and Indian reviewers assisting the process. The range of papers and posters promised disciplinary diversity, touching upon on ecology, economics, social sciences, legal aspects, and also practitioner representation.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony was held on the eve of the 10th of January 2011, with Dr. Elinor Ostrom, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences (2009) delivering the keynote and the Guest of Honour, Sri Jairam Ramesh (Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India). Although certain events of the Conference such as the South Asia Exchange Program and Practitioners' Exchange Program, the Pre-conference Workshops and the Exhibition had started before the Inaugural, the ceremony signaled the formal flagging-off of the Conference.

Photo: IASC

Dr. Elinor Ostrom, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences (2009): "there are *No Panaceas* for the problems facing common property resources across the world."

In her keynote Dr. Ostrom reiterated that "there are No Panaceas for the problems facing common property resources across the world", and that "policymakers across the world ought to adopt a polycentric approach to the problems on development." She also highlighted the importance of developing the study of governance of Common Pool Resources into a diagnostic science.

Photo: IASC

The Inaugural Ceremony signaled the formal flagging-off of the Conference.

KEYNOTES

IASC 2011 also featured keynote addresses by well-known researchers, practitioners and political figures with an involvement in various aspects of the commons both in India and internationally. Through their keynotes, the eminent speakers laid before the audience certain key structural issues pertaining to the commons.

On January 11th, 2011 Honorable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (MARM), El Salvador, Mr. Herman Rosa delivered a keynote, capturing his experiences of working with local communities as an NGO practitioner, while working for PRISMA; and how it helped shape his views on building national level policies and contributing to local discussions to benefit the poor. He talked of his efforts to constantly capitalize on the knowledge of community's research

Photo: IASC

Herman Rosa, El Salvador Minister of Environment and Natural Resources offered Prof. Ostrom and researchers his small country as a perfect laboratory for their work.

in his work, and went on to offer Professor Ostrom and other researchers, his small country of 2 million hectares, El Salvador, as a perfect laboratory for their work.

On the same day, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, the President of the IASC, underlined how collective expertise has in the past fuelled policy debates of global significance and how work such as Dr. Ostrom's and several other colleagues has been highly instrumental in the commons being recognised and laws being enacted to save them. Dr. Leticia Merino presided over the session.

David Bollier and Dr. Bina Agarwal delivered their keynotes on January 12th, 2011 Dr. Jesse Ribot chaired this early-morning session. Speaking on "The Marginalization of the Commons and What to do About It", David Bollier, journalist, activist and consultant from the US, talked of commons as being the new political culture, and suggested

Photo: FES

Mr. David Bollier is an author, activist, blogger and independent consultant whose work focuses on exploring the commons as a new paradigm of economics, politics and culture.

going back to the forgotten history of the commons. "Without legislature it is hard for commoners to argue in court about the commons, so we want to regenerate a body of common laws and I am convinced that recognition of the history of the commons can help us understand the victims of enclosure and those who depend on the commons for subsistence," he explained.

Delving into "Gender and Forest Conservation", Bina Agarwal who is Director and Professor of Economics, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi underscored that economists studying environmental collective action and green governance have often paid little attention to gender. She shared some of her work that went on to illustrate that if women were given more responsibility of looking after

Photo: FES

Prof. Bina Agarwal's work is centred on several interdisciplinary aspects including and linking gender, governance, economics and the environment.

tracts in the forest those tracts would fare better than the others in a year.

January 14, 2011 saw Mr. Ashish Kothari of Kalpavriksh s delivering the keynote address, wherein he looked at "What Commons Mean to Common Persons and How they can Galvanize to Save them from Destruction". By citing several examples, Ashish Kothari brought home the fact that while there is a continuous erosion of the commons due to various reasons; it is also true that it is the indigenous people who have now begun to save wetlands, mountain areas and forests by reasserting their spiritual connection with nature and their historical rights over decades. He urged people to look at decentralization

and get the local communities embedded in managing the landscape, stating that 'grassroots' democracy was surely more effective than bureaucracy. The session was chaired by Dr. Susan Buck, the incumbent president of IASC.

Photo: FES

Mr. Ashish Kothari and Dr. Susan Buck during Mr. Khotari's keynote speech "What Commons Mean to Common Persons and How they can Galvanize to Save them from Destruction".

POLICY FORA

The Conference was pitched as an interface of policy, theory and practice; inviting contributions from some of the State governments/ departments as well as other countries with functioning policies, legal and institutional frameworks, so as to influence the discussion on the need for policy on commons at the national and state levels. Policy forum sessions also formed an integral part of the Conference Programme and provided the opportunity to discuss regional and global experiences in advocacy for a wide range of common property resources. Efforts were made to place the policy sessions coherence with the academic events scheduled on the 3 days.

SOUTH ASIA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME-PRACTITIONERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

IASC 2011 aimed at a match between academic focus and practitioner experiences and sought to provide spaces for practitioners such as NGOs and activists to learn from the latest advancements in commons theory and research. This was taken forward through the South Asia Exchange Programme and the Practitioners' Exchange Programme, supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), respectively.

Young scholars and practitioners from the SAARC countries and China who were presenting papers at the conference were chosen based on merit, topical balance, and considerations of regional balance and gender equity, and invited to be part of a special programme that would help them gain valuable understanding of the complexities in commons management and governance through workshops and field visits specially designed for them, with each component adding value to the others and thereby furthering the participants' learning. The Exchange Programme was held from January 7–17, 2011. It was an eclectic group of 25 participants, comprising people from different academic and professional standings. The common thread running through all the partners was that they were all working on commons either in their academic positions or in their professional capacities.

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Apart from the 10 day long SAEP-PEP, the

Photo: FES

Workshop "Introduction to Commons in India" was coordinated by Purnendu Kavoori, N.C. Narayanan, Chetan Agarwal, Vivekananda, from FES, India.

Conference offered 11 pre-conference workshops that were conducted on the 10th of January.

The workshops not only proved to be ice breakers for the delegates, but more importantly, afforded an excellent opportunity

for practitioners and academics to interact and debate ideas 'from the ground and from the lab'.

FIELD VISITS

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Field visit "Traditional Art Forms in the Face of Changing Times: Ikkat Weavers of AP", Akshara.

Field visits were an integral part of 13th IASC 2011 in Hyderabad and were designed in alignment with the various thematic focal areas that are covered during the Conference. As many as 13 different one-day field visits were organised in close coordination with partners, Non Governmental Organizations and departments of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and these gave the delegates an insight into some of the practical aspects surrounding the management and governance of CPRs.

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Dyeing process before weaving.

© Tine de Moor 2011

Field visit Pastoralism and agro-pastoralism: reimagining the future of CPRs, covered Saipet and Gundlapalle.

© Tine de Moor 2011

Saipet and Gundlapalle landscape.

BOOK RELEASES

Alongside the various panels and paper presentations, a number of special events were organised during the Conference, book releases being among them. The Conference served as a platform for the launch of four books/publications, each adding valuably to the existing knowledge and literature on various commons. These included:

Disputing the Floodplains by Tobais Haller, with a foreword by Elinor Ostrom.

Vocabulary of Commons; co-authored by 34 Authors Commercial Pressures on Land: Global Research Series by Collaborative

research project bringing together a wide variety of authors.

Resources, Rights and Cooperation: A Sourcebook on Property Rights and Collective Action for Sustainable Development, Published by the CGIAR Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRi), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

EXHIBITION

An important side-event at the 13th Biennial Conference on Commons was the Exhibition. It was organized with an intention to extend to NGOs, publishing houses and others an opportunity to showcase their work, publications and products. In the recently concluded edition of the Commons Conference, 40 stalls were put up, with the bulk of them being from NGOs working in watershed development, natural resource management, management and governance of CPRs and other related issues.

A few international funding agencies such as Concern Worldwide, CAPRI, IDRC, CAPRi and GEF UNDP SGP CEE were present, as was a sprinkling of commercial agencies that had a wide range of ethnic ware and jewelry, knick-knacks and curios in the offing.

The Exhibition offered the participants a unique opportunity to project their work in front of an international audience comprising of practitioners and academics from about 70 countries, most of whom were tuned into issues pertaining to natural resource management and CPR governance—the dominant under-current at the Exhibition, as at the Conference at large.

MEDIA

This Conference was part of a larger initiative by FES to raise awareness of issues pertaining to the commons, and a larger media strategy was carved that aimed to influence the 'common' mindset on Commons as well as build a discussion on the need for policy on commons in India. This included a range of research projects, media fellowships, and publications aimed at practitioners, policy makers, researchers, the media and interested laypersons. Our fellowship programmes and engagement with journalists aimed at covering the subject of commons in national and regional newspapers and magazines and on television channels and radio programmes.

The Conference was successful in garnering a fair amount of media attention, with the presence of dynamic policymakers and Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom elevating the levels of interest in issues of commons, and the profile of the event. Apart from participating in the Conference, Dr. Ostrom's visit to India was marked with talks, interviews and press meets. Dr. Ostrom was interviewed by Shekhar Gupta for a programme "Walk the Talk" that was recorded during Dr. Ostrom's visit to Delhi and broadcasted in NDTV 24x7 on 12th Feb, 2011. Dr. Elinor Ostrom was also interviewed by Mr. Paranjoy Guha and this talk was telecast over Lok Sabha TV.

The event was covered by several local and national newspapers (Hindu, Varta, Andhra Bhoomi, to name a few), and the commons also featured as the key theme in several articles of publications such as Down to Earth, around and after that time. A commons blog containing information about the Conference and social promotion messages related to commons was started a week before the Conference. Social networking tools such as twitter, facebook etc. were used to create forums for discussions on commons issues. The main events during the Conference: Inaugural ceremony, Keynote Addresses and Policy Forum Sessions were webcast live and were also available for viewing after the Conference.

THE LARGER COMMONS INITIATIVE

At the outset, when FES proposed to host the 13th Biennial Conference on Commons in India, FES it was clear that it would not just

be an event in itself but would help trigger processes that would aim for recognition and better governance of commons and feed into the preparation process of the 12th Five Year Plan. One of the major underlying objectives behind hosting the Conference in India was to take advantage of the momentum already generated in this country through extensive programmes on watershed development, joint forest management, participatory irrigation and overall decentralised governance, and attempt to enrich this conference by bringing together practitioners, decision-makers and scholars to a common meeting place. In several ways, the Conference was successful in achieving this, and served as an eye opener with regard to the critical role that the commons such as forests, water bodies, and grazing lands play in sustaining the rural economy in any country in the world including India. The interactions with various Central and State government departments over the course of the last year, and building up to the Conference, have shown a positive and encouraging response.

In the meeting with the Planning commission prior to the Conference, there were requests for substantiating information from various quarters and members of the Commission. This included information on the successes and failures of various institutional efforts, possible contributions on the work on commons to contribute to the Economic Survey and recommendations as to how the planning process itself can be improved to have community ownership. Compilation of relevant responses is underway.

In order to achieve the objective of influencing policy and programmatic action in a few states and to provide inputs to the 12th Five Year Plan (2012–2017), FES has initiated the 'Commons Initiative' —by building strategic collaborations, bringing together practitioners and their networks, decision-makers and scholars and initiate a process for a long-term campaign on the issue of commons. The role of the Commons Initiative is to trigger various processes that would aim for a better recognition and governance of commons.

The Initiative on Commons is growing, and several peer organizations and academic bodies have already joined hands with FES in its preparations towards the Conference as well as in furthering the larger agenda of the Initiative.

Our aim is that the concerns around commons find support from various quarters where organizations and networks arrive at context specific suggestions for policy interventions covering a range of resource regimes and institutions.

With an exhibition, talks, presentations, discussions and book launches, interspersed with several workshops, field visits and social events, IASC 2011 offered a packed and a truly engaging programme over the five days from the 10th to the 14th of January, 2011.

In hosting the international Conference, we are proud to have partnered with: the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the Department of Land Resources, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC), Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of Andhra Pradesh (MCRHRDI).

Photo: IASC

Hosts and sponsors.

Our sponsors were Actionaid, Arghyam, Collective Action and Property Rights(CAPRi), Concern Worldwide, Ford Foundation, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Omidyar Network, Sir Dorabji Tata Trusts and the Allied Trusts (SDTT), Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme and UNDP India.

Message from India

Kate Ashbrook

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society which campaigns for common land in England and Wales, attended the Hyderabad conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons as a guest of IASC and of the co-host, the Indian Foundation for Ecological Security (FES). She gives a snapshot of eight days in Hyderabad.

© Kate Ashbrook 2011

Hyderabad, John and Kate.

The definition of commons in England and Wales is pretty precise. So it was mind-broadening for me to understand what 'commons' means in a global context—the concept of a shared resource, whether land, water, air or the internet.

I went with John Powell and Chris Short from the Countryside and Community Research Institute at the University of Gloucester. Chris and I ran one of the 11 pre-conference workshops, 'Policy discussion on commons: lessons from recent policy experiences in the UK and Europe'. It was attended by seven people, from India, Japan, Morocco and Nepal. We discussed the many threats to common land in these countries—the forests of Nepal, the fisheries of Kerala, India, and the grasslands of Morocco. It is comforting to share our problems and know we are not alone.

The conference, which is largely academic, ran for three days (plus a day of field trips). We began at 8.30 am with two talks in plenary session; it was lovely to sit on the rows of chairs covered in white material, under a cool canopy with the myna birds calling. The plenary speakers were of high quality with thought-provoking messages. For instance, Herman Rosa Chávez, head of El Salvador's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, told us of his struggle to bring environmental practices to the country. David Bollier, author, political activist and consultant from Amherst, Massachusetts, USA gave a rallying call to us all to develop a publicly-available discourse on commons, begin new conservations among commons subgroups to become a federated movement, and to develop new connections between scholars, activists and practitioners. As a campaigner, I hope I can help make these things happen.

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Hall of residence.

Then through the day there were three 90-minute sessions, each with a choice of 11 events in which four to six people presented papers. So while 400-500 papers were presented, little could be considered in depth.

There was, however, an all-day side-event, run by Kalpavirksh Environmental Action Group, called 'Indigeneous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs)'. It hosted speakers from around the world, each giving a 15-minute presentation on their experience of ICCAs within their own countries. This session highlighted how vulnerable are indigenous people and their homelands.

The formal part of each day ended with four parallel policy-fora each intended as a discussion of an issue in greater depth. I spoke at a forum on legal recognition of community-based property rights, with three Indian lawyers, an Indian water expert and a German economist with the World Bank. I explained that in England and Wales custom is the law, and I advocated the benefits of defining and recording legal rights. But the counter-argument was put from countries whose customs are not enshrined in law, namely that once a right is defined it is easier for the state or a developer to steal it. The intention of the policy fora is for speakers to be brief, allowing plenty of time for discussion and debate, though many of them didn't work out that way.

With economic growth in India now at nine per cent a year, its commons are under threat. A study team from FES presented a series of papers on 'A commons story, in the rain shadow of green revolution'. The study asked whether agriculture, livestock and rural livelihoods could be sustained in the absence of the support provided by commons. Not surprisingly, it showed the answer to be no.

© Kate Ashbrook 2011

The villagers welcomed us with music, song and dance.

This was well illustrated by our field trip to look at pastoralism in the Deccan region, north of Hyderabad. Here people's survival depends on their Deccani sheep which are important for their dark, coarse wool and are ideally suited to the extreme temperatures and long-distance migration in search of food and water.

© Kate Ashbrook 2011

Saipet Deccan sheep.

The shepherds, during the migration from August to February, make agreements with farmers who pen the sheep on their land, winning dung for their soil and in return giving the shepherds food and pocket money.

Meanwhile in the villages the women sort, card and spin the wool while the men weave it into blankets and mats.

© Kate Ashbrook 2011

The women sort, card and spin the wool.

There is now competition from imported cheap, soft wool, and the market for Deccani blankets has declined. The state pays the

shepherds to replace or cross their Deccani breed with heavier, meat breeds which are more susceptible to disease and less able to cope with the long migration. The state is promoting industrialised land-use for non-food crops, and dams and irrigation are enabling year-round use for rice and sugar cane. Land is being enclosed for private use. So the culture of shepherding is declining and fewer women are learning to spin wool. The old ways are threatened.

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Deccan sheep wool on the loom.

Anthra, a group which works with the landless to protect indigenous knowledge, has helped the shepherds form community groups (*sanghams*), open to all, which meet regularly to share their concerns and provide a voice for the communities, working to improve their livelihoods and restore their control and autonomy over their farming systems.

The IASC held a members' meeting, and the president Ruth Meinzen-Dick, stood down after more than two years hard-working service, to be replaced by Susan Buck, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, USA. It was a great to meet the leaders of IASC and our diligent, committed and enthusiastic staff. We thanked them all for their many achievements for IASC.

The week's highlights included hearing and meeting Elinor (Lin) Ostrom from Indiana University, the Nobel Prizewinner, and many other experts on commons; visiting Lad

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Chowmahalla Palace

Bazaar, Golconda Fort and the Chowmahalla Palace for a banquet, and drinking in the culture of the region.
The FES were magnificent hosts and arranged two cultural evenings with food and dancing in splendid surroundings.

After the conference ended I took part in a weekend event for FES, helping to develop a 'commons initiative'. The aim of 'think commons', as we called it, is to influence the government and policy makers to include commons as an integral part of India's twelfth five-year plan (2012-17).

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Commons Initiative for India

It was a week I shall always remember and I have made so many new friends. I look forward to the next global conference in 2013, on the slopes of Mount Fuji in Japan. I can strongly recommend all members to attend— it is a wonderful experience.

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January 2011 IASC Workshop: Initiating an applied research programme on 20 years of community-based natural resource management by the GEF Small Grants Programme

Terence Hay-Edie and Ana Maria Currea
UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme

© Terence Hay-Edie 2011

IASC participants from Central Asia, South Asia, Africa, South America and the Pacific took part in the pre-conference workshop.

Since its inception at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership, has been working worldwide to support local actions on community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), testing innovative approaches to produce sustainable livelihoods whilst achieving lasting global environmental benefits.

Through a decentralized grant delivery mechanism, the SGP provides small grants up to $50,000 directly to community-based organizations, non-governmental groups, local communities and indigenous peoples. In each participating country, small grants are approved by a National Steering Committee, composed of national experts with a non-governmental majority, for civil society-led actions in the relevant GEF focal areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, sustainable land management, protection of international waters, and elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants. As of early 2011, the SGP has supported a total of approximately 13,500 community-based projects in 122 countries.

In January 2011, recognising the wealth of project experiences from this largely untapped dataset, the SGP partnered with IASC member Regina Birner from the University of Hohenheim, Germany, to organize a pre-conference workshop at the IASC in Hyderabad to explore possibilities for collaboration between the SGP and the IASC on the range of grassroots CBNRM initiatives supported since 1992. Approximately 30 IASC participants from Central Asia, South Asia, Africa, South America and the Pacific took part in the pre-conference workshop.

Professor Birner laid out the context with a chronology of key UN efforts to engage civil society through participatory approaches, going on to list some critical and provocative questions for donor programmes and multilateral organisations to consider– in particular regarding the common self-referential tendency to use such terms as "best practice" or "model projects". Participants discussed the risks of donor-driven consultative processes, as well as disenchantment with the community-based paradigm in certain academic circles. Keeping this "institutional reflexivity" in mind, Professor Birner noted that a

comprehensive global evaluation of the SGP had been carried out in 2007 which examined the experience of over 120 small grants, selected using stratified random sampling, across 22 countries (see: "Joint Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (2008)", GEF Evaluation Office Report No. 39)

Responding to the analytical framework outlined, a set of preliminary comments were provided by Terence Hay-Edie from the SGP Central Programme Management Team at the global level, followed by two country-based presentations by SGP National Coordinators from India (Prabhjot Sodhi) and Kenya (Nancy Chege). Over the course of the workshop, participants went on to share their experiences of working with the SGP in different regions of the world, reviewed the SGP grant application system, and provided suggestions on how best to develop an applied research programme with the IASC during the 5th Operational Phase of SGP (OP5) running from 2011-2014.

Key recommendations included the possibility for IASC workshop partners to apply directly for SGP funds to conduct applied research projects at the national level during the OP5 cycle. In addition, given that the workshop had only reached a small fraction of the total number of IASC conference participants present in Hyderabad, the convenors agreed to prepare a follow-up survey to allow for other IASC members, in particular from academic institutions, to submit with expressions of interest in the applied research. In this context, all interested IASC members are invited to provide their contact details, along with areas of geographic/thematic interest, at the following web link:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRL753C

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SGP project example – revitalizing common-pool resources in Iran

One example of an SGP project addressing common-pool resources can be found in the northern Zagros Mountain Range in the west of Iran.

Historically, wood and fodder in the region of Havareh-Khol were provided through an indigenous management method called Galazani, which in Kurdish means to "cut the new branches of Oak trees along the stem to be stored for use in winter". Through this traditional forestry technique, each extended family previously managed a customary forest territory, or Galajar, which was used to collect wood for heating, animal husbandry and construction. In 3 year cycles, families would take turns in managing the Galajar.

When Havareh-Khol became a market town, many villagers who had lived before on livestock breeding and forestry changed their traditional ways and started trading goods. At roughly the same period, increasing oil exports led to a spike in local fuel prices raising the threat of forest overexploitation. When Iran nationalized its forests in 1963, limiting access to forest resources, a growing break-down in trust between the local communities and the authorities became apparent. With the participation of a number of eminent national academics, a project was formulated for assistance from the SGP to launch and analyze the revitalization of participatory forestry using the Galazani traditional forest management method. Through the SGP project intervention (in an area of 347 ha of forest with valuable species of Oak; 120 ha of rangelands; 77 ha of farm fields; 3 ha residential areas; and 30 ha of degraded forests), a participatory forest management office was established within the faculty of Natural Resources of Kurdistan University, and the local community began to document its own revitalization of traditional forest management practices.

Upon completion of the project in 2003, the Forests and Rangeland Organization (the main forest management authority in Iran) decided to change the name of its policy from "Fighting against Galazani" to "Organizing Galazani" in the High Council of Forests. In addition, the North Zagros Research and Development Centre was formed in the province of Kurdistan to facilitate communication between the education and development sector, as well as the executive agencies active concerned with forest management.

Since that time, numerous discussions have taken place on the project experience between government agencies and academic institutions, and with the assistance of the Research and Development Centre at least 5 national Masters level dissertations on the subject have been completed. Based on the achievements of the Havareh-Khol project, another SGP project was later executed in the neighbouring region of Armardeh, looking to replicate and analyze the extension of the "improved Galazani" forest management method in other parts of the Zagros Mountains.

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Emily Castle

Director of the Digital Library of the Commons, Indiana University

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13th IASC Global Conference Papers

IASC 2011
EUROPEAN MEETING

International Association for the Study of the Commons IASC European Meeting

September 14-17, 2011
Hosted by the Agricultural University
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Theme: **Shared Resources in a Rapidly Changing World**

The regional meeting of the EU branch of the IASC will have as its theme "Shared Resources in a Rapidly Changing World", reflecting the emphasis on the currently well recognized fact that many if not most resources (e.g. natural resources, social capital, knowledge) require a shared management regime.

The aim of the European Regional Meeting 2011 is to strengthen the network of European researchers who are investigating those shared management regimes. The conference site, one of the conference themes and the field excursion will highlight in particular the special challenges of (natural) resource management regimes in the post-socialist countries.

Besides the regional focus of Eastern Europe, the conference is open to all European scientists and actors active in the policy domain who work on property regimes and who contribute to discuss new modes of governance for shared resources.

The conference is organized in 4 subthemes:

- Multiple Drivers to Change in Common Management
- Post Socialist Commons: the Road Ahead
- Methods Investigating Complex Common Property Regimes
- Multi-level Governance

Breaking news: International Journal of the Commons made it into Scopus

Publishing in IJC will from now on count towards your h-index! No more reasons not to submit your best work!

The CSAB reviewer comment reads:

In just a few years, the International Journal of the Commons has established itself as an important outlet for interdisciplinary work on sustainable society and the public good. Outstanding papers widely cited in a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals make this an obvious choice for inclusion in Scopus.

Scopus - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/

Now Published!

Second Spanish Edition of
Elinor Ostrom's *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*

Elinor Ostrom *El gobierno de los bienes comunes. La evolución de las instituciones de acción colectiva*

Prólogo de José Sarukhán Kermes
Traducción y revisión técnica
Leticia Merino Pérez

Primera edición en inglés 1990
Primera edición en español 2000
Segunda edición en español 2011

Fondo de Cultura Económica e
Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, UNAM

It has been 22 years since Lin Ostrom's seminal work *Governing the Commons* was first published promoting a strong expansion of the commons research in which scholars, practitioners and decision makers of different regions of the world have taken part.

This global discussion and production, however, have only had a marginal impact in Latin America and Spain, largely due to the language barrier. Ten years after the first edition in Spanish of *Governing the Commons*, this second reviewed edition seeks to provide a better tuned tool for field work, policy analysis and teaching, for the understanding of the commons in the Spanish speaking world.

Université catholique de Louvain
Two Postdoctoral researchers
and One PhD fellow

The Biodiversity Governance Unit of the Centre for Philosophy of Law (CPDR) (at the Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) is looking for 2 postdoctoral research fellows and 1 PhD research fellow in one of the following areas:

Political economy of global commons and global public goods (in particular genetic resources, natural resources, or digital information commons)

- Global governance
- Science and technology policy studies
- International Law (Intellectual property, Access and Benefit Sharing Regime)

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT: The CPDR is an interdisciplinary research centre among one of the top research departments in Europe working on governance issues. For the last 15 years, it has been awarded a number of major European research grants, which have been evaluated as top rank projects by external reviewers. With researchers in the fields of law, political sciences, economics and philosophy it offers a vibrant and stimulating interdisciplinary research environment (more information at http://www.uclouvain.be/en-cpdr.html).

- The researchers will work in the Biodiversity Governance Unit of the CPDR under the supervision of prof. Tom Dedeurwaerdere, in one of the following research projects, depending on their qualifications and interest:
- BIOMOT (Motivational strength of ecosystem services and alternative ways to express the value of Biodiversity) (FP7-ENV-2011). The task under this project is to establish, through a large-scale survey, which (economic and alternative) ways expressing the value of biodiversity have been at work in cases of successful projects, regulations and policies for biodiversity conservation, both at the global, the EU, the national and local scales.
- MICRO B3 (Marine Microbial Biodiversity, Bioinformatics and Biotechnology): Work Package on Intellectual Property Management for Marine Bioprospecting (FP7-OCEAN2011-2). The task under this project is to analyse and review intellectual property strategies for building global knowledge commons in life science research.
- GENCOMMONS (Institutionalizing global genetic-resource commons) (grant application still pending). The task under this project is to conduct a large-scale comparative institutional assessment of governance arrangements for managing genetic resource commons, with a special focus on plant, animal and microbial genetic resources used in food and agriculture.

JOB DESCRIPTION: The positions are strongly research oriented with very limited organizational duties and no teaching obligations. We offer a competitive remuneration package (including a monthly allowance, social security and insurance expenses) and generous funding of research related activities (participation to conferences and research missions in selected developed and developing countries). The fellowships are granted for 12 to 24 months.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS: For the postdoctoral positions: a PhD in Political Science, Law or Economics. Postdoctoral applicants are expected to develop a strong research record aiming at publications in international journals. Excellent English language skills are required. Postdoctoral applicants should also send a copy (in pdf) of 2 publications with their application.

For the PhD fellowship: a Master level or equivalent university degree in Political Science, Law or Economics. PhD applicants are expected to show evidence of a top level academic record. Excellent English language skills are required. Doctoral applicants are encouraged to send a copy of their Master thesis or of 1 publication.

PROCEDURE: Application form at http://biogov.uclouvain.be/application. Applications can be sent electronically from the 1st of July 2011, but no later than 15th of September 2011.

Universität Bremen

Research Center for European Environmental Law

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG

International Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Benefit Sharing

Common Pools of Genetic Resources. Improving Effectiveness, Justice and Public Research in ABS

The Focus

The genetic qualities of plants and animals belong to states where they are found. Researchers aiming to develop products from them, for example new medicines, are obliged to seek the prior informed consent of the resource state. If benefits accrue from the new products, they must be shared with the resource state. From the findings of an ABS project conducted at the FEU from 2006 to 2009, the bilateral exchange based on access in return for benefits suffers from multiple shortcomings:...

15 and 16 September 2011
(Thur. 9.00 a.m. – Fri. 5.30 p.m.)

.. It is in many cases not effective inter alia because the resource states lack the means to control the valorisation chain of genetic resources, and it is unjust as benefits from utilisation of resources often spread/found in territories of numerous states are shared with a single state. In addition, it is often restraining to public R&D. The common pools project is an attempt to find more effective, just and R&D friendly solutions based on pools of genetic material and knowledge thereof whereby resource and user states collaborate. Such common solutions might be better placed to monitor the R&D process as well as supervise the distribution of benefits. The workshop presentations will focus on existing models of pools of genetic resources, genetic information and traditional knowledge and develop proposals for improvement in full respect for ABS requirements as laid out in the recently concluded Protocol of Nagoya.

September 15th 2011

9:00 Welcome & Organisational Matters
Evanson Chege Kamau, University of Bremen

I. Introduction

9:15 The idea of common pools
Gerd Winter, University of Bremen

II. General Issues

9:45 Iustitia distributiva and commutativa in the Nagoya Protocol
Peter-Tobias Stoll, University of Goettingen

10.30 An institutional analysis framework for evaluating collective action genetic resource commons
Tom Dedeurwaerdere, Catholic University of Louvain

11.15 Coffee/Tea break

11.45 Traces of the common pools concept in Nagoya Protocol
Matthias Buck, European Commission

12.30 National legislation in view of pools – The case of Malaysia
Gurdial Nijar, University of Malaya

13.15 Lunch

III. National & Regional Approaches

14.15 TK common pools – A case study of Bushbuckridge
Kabir Bavikatte, Natural Justice, Cape Town

15.00 The Hoodia case – Lessons for communal and regional common pools Evanson Chege Kamau, University of Bremen

15.45 Coffee/Tea break

16.15 Common pools of TK related to genetic resources at the local level in Brazil
John Kleba, Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica, São José dos Campos, São Paulo

17.00 Genetic resources common pools in Brazil
Juliana Santilli, MPDFT, Brasilia

19.00 Reception by the Senator for Environment, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Dr. Reinhard Loske, Townhall

September 16th 2011

9.00 ABS of common pools resources in China
Tianbao Qin, Wuhan University

9.45 Common pools of shared seed of Quechua and Aymara communities of Peru
Brendan Tobin, University of Ireland

10.30 Coffee/Tea break

IV. Global Approaches

11.00 Sui generis and open source as common pools in aqua- culture
Morten Walløe Tvedt, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Lysaker

11.45 The multilateral system of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources Evanson Chege Kamau, University of Bremen

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Ex situ networks of genetic resources
Christine Godt, University of Oldenburg

14.15 Addressing the needs of the food and agriculture sector: Possible ABS approaches to accommodate the special features of GRFA Marie Schloen, Catholic University of Louvain Sélim Louafi, CIRAD, Montpellier

15.00 Coffee/Tea break

15.30 Data banks of genetic information: How they are organised and affected by ABS issues
Gerd Winter, University of Bremen

16.15 Gene data banks for marine organisms: What they contain and how they can be used in ABS contexts Bevis Fedder, University of Bremen

17.00 Closing Session: Assessment / Way Forward

Substantive Issues:
Dr. Evanson C. Kamau Phone:
+49(0)421 218 66105

Organisational Issues: Antje Spalink Forschungsstelle für Europaeisches Umweltrecht (FEU) Universitaet Bremen Universitaetsallee GW I D - 28359 Bremen
Phone: +49 (0)421 218 - 66101 / Fax – 66099
E-mail: feu@uni-bremen.de
Workshop Link: www.feu.uni-bremen.de

Information

Registration by fax (+49 (0)421 218 - 66099) or e-mail (feu@uni-bremen.de) until September 5th, 2011. Registration is only valid upon confirmation by the organizers. The registration fee is to be remitted on the account indicated below or paid in cash at the workshop. Workshop materials will be made available at the workshop.

Registration fee: Regular fee: 100 € per person Reduced fee: 50 € (students) Please remit the registration fee with the following reference: „Verwendungszweck EK 50010100, IA 40600067, Access to Genetic Resources" to: Universitaet Bremen, Bremer Landesbank, BLZ 290 500 00, Account No 1070 500 022, Swift-Code: BRLADE22 IBAN: DE37 2905 0000 1070 5000 07

Hotel / Room reservations: Participants are responsible for making their own hotel / room reservations. However, we can offer advice on suitable hotels and / or hostels in terms of price and location.

Venue: Munte Hotel, Parkallee 299, D-28359 Bremen

Response

I would like to attend the conference "Access to Genetic Resources".

Name: .....

.....

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Institution: .....

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Phone No. .....

.....

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E-Mail: .....

.....

.....

I agree to publish my contact details on the list of participants / I do not agree to having my contact details on the list of participants (please delete as necessary).

Signature: .....

Response

An die
Forschungsstelle für Europäisches Umweltrecht (FEU) Universität Bremen
D – 28353 Bremen

Invitation From Elinor Ostrom

July 10, 2011

To Colleagues Interested in the Commons:

Scholars interested in a variety of common-pool resources and public goods are scattered across the world and in multiple disciplines interested in diverse common resources. We were fortunate to be able to establish the International Association for the Study of the Commons two decades ago. This has provided us a forum that disciplinary meetings do not. We can engage in a very serious and cumulative discussion of how diverse groups at multiple scales have or have not solved problems of great importance.

IASC is now itself a "global commons" committed to the production and dissemination of knowledge, which is a "public good," about how many diverse institutions help or hinder the solutions of common-pool resources, in complex social-ecological settings. As members, we also face a social dilemma in keeping IASC funded. Without our contributions, IASC is not sustainable over time.
I have learned so much from being a member of IASC, and I hope that you will join in this effort by renewing your membership or becoming a member.

Regards,

Elinor Ostrom
Former President and Current Active Member of IASC

Membership Drive

Dear members,

Thank you for supporting the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) by means of your membership. IASC is itself a commons, and depends on its membership dues for many of the critical activities it undertakes, such as organizing the Global Conferences and the Regional and Thematic Meetings, publishing *The Commons Digest* and the *International Journal of the Commons*, supporting the Digital Library of the Commons and other networking among IASC members that we are working on. Your support has increased the financial viability of the organization over these years.

Elinor Ostrom's Nobel Prize and the increasing attention to the commons have given our association a big lift, but we can't rest on our laurels. We need to move forward to meet the (old and) new challenges to the commons.

The individual membership dues are based on incomes as listed in the categories below:

- Incomes US $19,999 and below dues are $20.00
- Incomes US $20,000-49,999 dues are $75.00
- Incomes US $50,000-79,999 dues are $120.00
- Incomes US $80,000 and above dues are $175.00

You can make your renewal in a clear and simple way in the following electronic address:

https://membership.iasc-commons.org

or you can go to

http://www.iasc-commons.org

Then follow the links in the bottom right corner:

Join IASC / Renew IASC Membership

If you do not have a credit card, we have two alternatives for you to pay your membership. You can send a check by mail or pay through a bank transfer (wire transfer) to our account.
For more information about these options, please contact Gabriela Ortiz

gabrielaortiz@iasc-commons.org

Finally, we invite you to visit IASC's new website at:

www.iasc-commons.org

Our site is being upgraded to provide you with better information about: conferences, organization's activities, publications (*The Commons Digest* and *International Journal of the Commons*), and contacts with other members.

We look forward to your continued support!

Best Regards,

Susan J. Buck

President, International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC)

iasc@iasc-commons.org