

23129
January 2001



The quarterly newsletter of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network
January 2001

ESSD

Community Driven Development Anchor now firmly established

The cross-network Community-Driven Development (CDD) anchor unit is alive and kicking. Based in SDV and sponsored by Social, Rural and Infrastructure networks, the unit is supporting the intensified CDD effort afoot throughout the Bank. The anchor team will assist regional CDD teams, promote tested approaches, track progress, coordinate analytical work and training with other thematic and regional groups, and provide cross-support and overall coordination on CDD. The CDD chapter for the PRSP sourcebook has been finalized and is accessible on the intranet. Watch for the launch of the CDD website in late January.

Contacts: Philippe Dongier (x88365) or Dan Owen (x32211).

ENVIRONMENT

Latest public opinion on the Environment now available

You can read the new *Environmental Monitor 2000* from Environics on ESSD's internal website (<http://essd/>). This survey of about 1,000 adults in 34 nations represents opinion of about 70 percent of the world's population. From *Monitor* introduction: "*Findings from this, the largest environmental survey ever conducted, reveal a growing 'green wave' of top-of-mind concern in Asia. As people become increasingly concerned about the environment, they feel frustrated by what they see as inadequate legislation and unsatisfactory efforts by industry on behalf of the environment. The prospect of increasing activism and its related challenges open up opportunities for leadership by both government and the private sector.*" Doug Miller, President of Environics, will make a presentation of the survey to the Bank in the spring (date to be determined). Contact: Kristyn Ebro (x82736).

The Environment strategy consultations in San Francisco

Environment Director Kristalina Georgieva and a World Bank team continued the marathon course of consultations for the evolving Bank-wide environment strategy with a day-long consultation in San Francisco, November 20, 2000. More than two dozen participants took part in the meeting, hosted by the World Affairs Council. Participants represented a broad range of affiliations and attitudes towards the World Bank -- from highly critical NGOs, to representatives of the Goldman Foundation and others, as well as academics from the University of California, and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Forest Service. Breakout groups dealt with "poverty growth and environment", "safeguards", "health and environment", and "linking global and local concerns".
Contact: Judith Moore (x89301) or Anita Gordon (x31799).

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund in full swing

December 12-14 were busy days for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) -- a joint initiative between Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the World Bank. On December 12, 2000 the World Bank Board of Directors approved the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF); on the 13th, the Financing Agreement legally establishing the CEPF and its Donor Council was signed; and on the 14th the first meeting of the CEPF Donor Council, chaired by President Wolfensohn, was held. The Donor Council members also include Mohammed El-Ashry, CEO and Chairman of the GEF; Peter Seligmann, CEO and Chairman of CI; and Ian Johnson, ESSD Vice President. During the first year of its operation, the CEPF will focus on three ecosystems: (i) Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands; (ii) Upper Guinean Forest ecosystems in West Africa; and (iii) the southern tropical Andes in South America. As a "global project," the CEPF will be managed from the central Environment Department. However, it will be crucial that regional staff are involved in the development, review, and supervision of regional ecosystem activities in order to strengthen links with regional portfolios, local contacts, and to take advantage of staff's experience with conservation work in their respective regions. To this end, all regions have nominated focal points who have actively participated in the review of ecosystem profiles and other key documents. For more information on the CEPF, please see the website at: www.cepf.net
Contacts: Gonzalo Castro (x31107) and Kerstin Canby (x31407).

Work on POPs Convention progresses

The fifth Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC-5) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) met on 4-9 December 2000, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The committee made significant progress in its preparation of the instrument which will govern twelve POPs (comprising of pesticides, industrial chemicals and by-products), and which follows in the footsteps of other chemical-based conventions, such as the Montreal Protocol. Key highlights of the meeting include:

- The GEF will serve as the interim financial mechanism under the future POPs convention (Article K).
- Control obligations which countries will sanction in order to reduce and eliminate these twelve chemicals have been defined (Article D).
- Participants from countries, as well as from multilaterals and NGOs, displayed a strong drive for compromise, contrasting with the last INC meeting where divisions between the EU and the US, and developed and developing countries, were evident.

An important issue which will be dealt with at the first COP is the definition of agreed incremental costs. Articles agreed at this meeting will be put forward at the first COP of the POPs convention scheduled for May 22-23, 2001, in Stockholm, Sweden.

Contact: Steve Gorman (x35865).

The Prototype Carbon Fund to receive first trainees

The core objective of the Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF) is "learning-by-doing" in the carbon market. To strengthen this objective, the PCF is sponsoring a training program for stakeholders, host country participants, and southern NGO specialists. The visitors will come for anywhere between a week to a few months, depending on their interests and needs. This program will allow the visitors to experience the work of the PCF unit as members and co-workers in the team.

Contact: Jari Vayrynen (x32161).

Bridging troubled waters: assessing the water resources strategy since 1993

The draft final report of OED's evaluation of how effectively the Bank's 1993 Water Resources Management Strategy has been implemented was circulated for Bank management review on December 22, 2000. The evaluation covers all water and water-related lending and non-lending work included in the water supply and sanitation, irrigation and drainage, and environment sectors, as well as water-component lending nested within more general projects (e.g. social funds, rural development, etc.). The report benefited greatly from feedback received from Bank staff and discussed at a one-stop OED meeting on October 31, 2000 and was, as a result, revised and shortened. It is now in the closing round for feedback and comments and the objective is to have management's response to the study recommendation by February 14, 2001.

Contact: G.T. Keith Pitman (x81412).

Training workshop on making biodiversity pay in Amazon Basin countries

A Training Workshop on "Making Biodiversity Pay" organized by WBI, ENV, and LCSES in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment, IUCN, and Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano (FLA) was held in Cuenca, Ecuador, November 8-17. Its objective was to train economists from Amazon basin countries to analyze the economic costs and benefits of biodiversity, and design ways of making biodiversity conservation pay, with particular emphasis on the use of payments for environmental services. There is considerable interest in biodiversity conservation and in the use of economic instruments throughout the Amazon basin countries, and this workshop is envisaged as a first step in an on-going work program in the Amazon basin (and other parts of Latin America and other regions). The course was extremely well received, and a large number of invitations have come in to provide similar or related workshops in individual countries of the region.

Contact: Stefano Pagiola (x82997) or Gunars Platais (x32627).

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The World Bank at COP4 - Desertification

Ian Johnson addressed the UN meeting on the Convention to Combat Desertification (COP4) in Bonn in December. He reported on the Bank's strategic efforts in support of the Convention as well as the CGIAR's scientific research to make agriculture more productive and sustainable in fragile ecosystems such as dry areas and desert margins. For the full text of Ian's speech, please see

www.cgiar.org/chairij/ccdbonn.htm or <http://essd.worldbank.org/essd/essd+home.nsf/WebView/Speeches>

Agricultural science & technology roundtable with the private sector

On December 5, 2000, the World Bank hosted a roundtable discussion on agricultural science and technology with 13 CEOs from major agribusiness companies. The meeting identified several issues:

- Factors affecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and options for improving the exchange of scientific information, especially with developing countries research institutes;
- Harmonizing the regulatory environment across countries and creating the enabling environment to conduct and share research findings to meet the global food needs;
- Undertaking a scientific-based assessment of the opportunities and risks of new technologies; and
- The establishment of a means to allow the private sector to contribute technology to developing countries unable to pay for it without impairing their ability to do business in other countries.

A full memo summarizing the meeting can be found on the ESSD website, or at:

<http://essd.worldbank.org/essd/essd+home.nsf/WebView/AgriculturalScienceTechnology> This meeting was the second of several intended stakeholder meetings on agricultural research, the first being with Gordon Conway of Rockefeller Foundation. The World Bank will continue to host meetings with a range of stakeholder groups from different perspectives.

Contact: Shawki Barghouti (x82867).

Commodity Price Risk Management Team - a new addition to the Rural family

On January 2nd, the Commodity Price Risk Management Team (CPRM) moved into the ESSD network, and will be housed in the Rural Development Family. The International Task Force for Commodity Price Risk Management is a unique partnership of private and public sector institutions which have come together to address the issues of price fluctuations and volatility in the commodities markets. These fluctuations are devastating for smallholder farmers who have virtually no means to protect themselves from these price, and consequent income, shocks. They also create major problems for our client countries at the macro level in terms of fiscal balance and ensuring a sound economic environment. The CPRM team in the Bank is pursuing market-based approaches to extend insurance and risk mitigation mechanisms to farmers, including smallholders, in our client countries.

Contact: Lynn Brown (x88175).

Rural Week 2001

Mark your calendars!!! April 23-24 is Rural week this year here at the Bank. Yes, it's so action packed we can do a "week" in 2 days!! The theme will be reaching the 70 percent of the poor who live in rural areas -- critical if the Bank is to achieve it's mission of poverty reduction. A key part of the program will focus on the new rural strategy for reaching the rural poor. An almost final draft will be presented. What makes it final? Your input and participation! Look out for exhibitions in the atrium, and other events in the days immediately preceding Rural Week.

Contact: Lynn Brown (x88175).

CGIAR/FUTURE HARVEST

This year's International Centers Week a success

The CGIAR held its annual International Centers Week (ICW2000) from October 23 - 27 at the World Bank, with hundreds of participants from around the world. World Bank officials took part in many of the activities, including:

- President Wolfensohn gave the opening remarks at a special "issues seminar" on "Frontier Science, Global Public Goods and the CGIAR."
- Motoo Kusakabe, VP for Resource Mobilization and Cofinancing, chaired a session on the CGIAR's role as an instrument for producing global public goods.
- Robert Watson, Chief Scientist and IPCC Chair, reported on the key issues and decisions at the COP6 meeting and discussed the importance of CGIAR research on the potential of land use, land use changes and agroforestry to mitigate climate change in support of the objectives of the UNFCCC.
- Hans Binswanger, Sector Director for Agriculture, addressed the plenary on the HIV/AIDS crisis and its implications for rural development and agricultural research in Africa.
- Robert Picciotto, OED Director General, informed the CGIAR members about plans to conduct a review of the public goods aspects of CGIAR's work as part of a larger effort to assess the development effectiveness of global public goods programs supported by the Bank.

For a full update on the week, please see

<http://www.worldbank.org/html/cgiar/publications/icw00/icw2000.html>

Get together to find badly needed cures

This was the title of an *International Herald Tribune* op-ed by Ian Johnson on the unique public-private partnership between the CGIAR's International Livestock Institute in Kenya and the Institute for Genome Research (TIGR) in the U.S. The scientists are working to find a cure for East Coast fever -- a ruinous livestock disease in sub-Saharan Africa -- with high hopes that the research could lead to a breakthrough in curing malaria and cancer world-wide. For the full article, please see www.ihf.com/articles/6337.htm

CGIAR -- a good example of what works

Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, speaking at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies on the eve of the Annual Meetings of the Bank/IMF meeting in Prague, cited the CGIAR as an example of why there should be increased support for global public goods: "*We have had enough successes, with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Green Revolution, the campaign to defeat river blindness in Africa, and the eradication of smallpox, to show that global public goods can be provided.*"

Scientists set to defeat millennia-long problem of locust and grasshopper plagues

Scientists from the Nigeria-based International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, recently announced the development of an environmentally-safe, natural alternative to the chemical insecticides used to combat locust plagues throughout the developing world. After a decade of development, the first commercial quantities of the new bio-pesticide were released in what is believed to be the largest aerial spraying of a bio-pesticide ever conducted in Africa. Preliminary data on the spraying in Niger indicate that the bio-pesticide provides complete control up to three times longer than current chemical insecticides, making it less expensive for farmers to protect their crops from locusts and grasshoppers. The new control method uses a naturally occurring fungus that is deadly to both locusts and grasshoppers but does not harm other insects, plants, animals, or people. IITA is a Future Harvest Center supported through the CGIAR. For the full story, visit <http://www.futureharvest.org/news/locustpressrelease.shtml>
Contact: Jason Wettstein (X33553).

Pearl-farming technology could help save coral reefs and generate new wealth

Amidst ethnic violence and warring militias, scientists from The World Fish Center based in Malaysia and their partners working in the Solomon Islands recently coaxed a crop of precious black pearls from oysters off their shores. Black pearl farming may offer hundreds of poor, coastal communities throughout the region a commercially-viable and environmentally-sustainable alternative to over-fishing. In the Solomons, where conflict has shattered the economy and rural average income is less than \$3 per day, the breakthrough couldn't come at a better time. In late October, the World Bank delayed support to the Solomons following an increase in ethnic tensions and doubts about local plans for large-scale development. The World Fish Center is one of the 16 food and environmental research organizations known as the Future Harvest Centers and supported through the CGIAR. For the full story, visit <http://www.futureharvest.org/growth/pearl.bkgnd.shtml>
Contact: Jason Wettstein (X33553).

Future Harvest centers find that new crops and better management

Farmers in developing countries are helping nature store away vast amounts of atmospheric carbon by growing high-yielding, land-efficient food crops that save room for forests, according to a report recently released by the 16 Future Harvest research centers. The report puts the amount of land saved over the past 30 years at 426 million hectares or nearly 1.0 billion acres. The savings are helping nature to store atmospheric carbon equal to a third of the amount released annually by all sources in the United States. "*By planting high-yielding varieties, farmers have left untouched vast areas of land that would have otherwise been needed to grow food,*" says Pedro Sanchez, director general of the Kenya-based International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF). The 16 Future Harvest centers recently approved a three-year, \$20 million pilot program for research associated with reducing global warming. One of the program's major priorities will be to develop rice varieties and water management practices that can reduce the emission of methane, one of the major greenhouse gasses. Future Harvest builds awareness and support for international agricultural research on behalf of 16 food and environmental research centers supported principally through the CGIAR. For the full story, visit <http://www.futureharvest.org/earth/carbon.bkgnd.shtml>
Contact: Jason Wettstein (X33553).

SOCIAL

Updated participation website

The Participation Website has become a global source of information on participation for people who want to understand more about how to alleviate poverty through participation, empowerment, and inclusion. The Participation Thematic Team has recently updated the sites' PRSP section with the most recent country interim PRSPs and full PRSPs, action learning case studies, presentation materials, PRSP learning tools, resource links, and information on participation in poverty diagnostics, in macroeconomic reform, in public expenditure management, and in monitoring implementation and results of policies. Check it out at www.worldbank.org/participation.
Contact: Parmesh Shah (x85918).

The Bank as a post-conflict player

Mr. Wolfensohn and Mr. Mark Malloch-Brown, UNDP Administrator, co-chaired a one hour videoconference on December 14th with six sites to discuss the funding gap in the transition from post-conflict humanitarian relief to long-term reconstruction. Participants were the UN Deputy Secretary, Heads of UNHCR and WFP, Acting UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, an EU Commissioner on Humanitarian and Development Aid, senior officials from Norway and the USA, and Ambassadors of the Republic of Congo and Rwanda. This meeting was part of a review that has come to be called the Brookings Process, first launched in 1999 by Wolfensohn and Ogata at a meeting in Washington. For a summary of the video conference, please visit the December 20th edition of *Bank's World Today* (<http://ispace.worldbank.org/todayarchive/html/122000a.htm>).
Contact: Kaz Kuroda (x82259) or Frode Davanger (x31658).

Women and women's organizations in post-conflict societies

The Post-Conflict Unit and the Gender and Development (Gad) thematic group of the PREM Gender Family co-sponsored a brown bag session on December 7, entitled "Women and Women's Organizations in Post-Conflict Societies". Dr. Krishna Kumar presented the USAID multi-country assessment of gender issues in post-conflict societies. The purpose of the assessment was to generate a body of empirically grounded knowledge that could inform the policy and programmatic interventions of USAID and other international donor agencies. In addition to extensive literature review, fieldwork was conducted in six countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, and Rwanda. A synthesis paper drew from these field investigations as well as from the studies and investigations by individual scholars or national and international organizations.
Contact: Frode Davanger (x31658).

A restructuring of dialogue with civil society

At the meetings of the NGO-World Bank Committee in early December, a watershed agreement was reached that will see a major restructuring of the Bank's dialogue with civil society at the global level. The NGO Working Group on the Bank had been requested by Mr. Wolfensohn to re-think its future role in light of changes in the global civil society context and in the Bank itself. The main elements of the changes are the inclusion of broader civil society -- beyond NGOs -- and a sharper thematic focus in the Bank's dialogue with civil society. In this respect, the NGO-World Bank Committee and its annual meetings will be replaced by an annual civil society forum which will be managed by a Bank-civil society "facilitation committee". Regional arrangements for Bank-civil society interaction will be determined at the regional level.
Contact: Jeff Thindwa (x81112).

SAFEGUARD NEWS

Sustainable development: Sweden's presidency of the European Union

In preparation for their upcoming Presidency of the European Union, Sweden convened a workshop with their Ministry of Environment and the Swedish International Development Agency, which was run by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). They decided that their topmost priority during their EU Presidency should be "Sustainable Development and the Private Sector". Lisa Segnestam and Robert Goodland from the WBG participated with the Business Council for Sustainable Development, along with UNEP, UNDP, OECD, and members of civil society. All participants were delighted to hear that the 2002 WDR, "10 Years After Rio", will be on Sustainable Development. Contact: Robert Goodland (x33203).

REGIONAL NEWS

Latin America

National seminar on social funds in Brazil

The Brazil CMU held a National Seminar on Social Funds in Brasilia on November 20-21. The purpose of the event was to present the findings of an independent review carried out by Brazilian researchers of 14 small-grants funds, totaling nearly \$1 billion dollars over 7 years, which the World Bank finances in Brazil. These funds are managed by governments at the federal and state levels and geared to the following areas: rural poverty, environment, natural resources management, and AIDS. A total of 80 government managers, civil society technicians, social development specialists, and Bank TMs participated of the event.

Contact: John Garrison (x34742).

Municipal development in rural Nicaragua: coordination between two World Bank-financed projects
Coordination between two municipal development institutions -- the Social Emergency Fund (FISE) and the Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development (INIFOM) -- has improved significantly. A dialogue has been established between the two presidents, finalizing the details of an inter-institutional agreement which would clarify specific responsibilities and complementarities, and define mechanisms for coordination and collaboration. Arrangements between the two institutions will be supported by a neutral facilitator to sustain a continued dialogue and information exchange and provide an adequate framework for improving coordination between the two institutions. The Nicaraguan Government will negotiate in January 2001 a proposed credit of \$28.7 million for the second phase of the Rural Municipalities Project, a project that would increase the depth and coverage of the ongoing Rural Municipalities (PROTIERRA). The project is an interesting example of rural development based on a decentralized, multisectoral approach in which municipal governments play a central role. A recent evaluation prepared by the project team will be published in the coming month and will be made available on the Internet.

Contacts: Maurizio Guadagni (x87155) or Gabriela Boyer (x33461).

Regional consultations on the environment strategy

The LCR environment team met with stakeholders in Cartagena (September), Rio de Janeiro (October), and San Jose (November) to discuss the Bank's environmental strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean. About 30-40 participants from the public, private, NGO, and academic sectors attended each meeting. The consultations showed fundamental support for the team's general approach but revealed considerable differences in subregional emphases, difficulty in setting priorities, and some interesting departures from the Bank's priorities. In addition, consultations via a web site and by e-mail have generated more than 200 responses since August. The team is now revising the draft strategy, integrating comments, and addressing issues raised during the consultations, though continued input from all CMUs and SMUs in the Region is encouraged.

Contact: Teresa Serra (x35754).

Civil society specialists in country offices remapped to CMUs

As part of a recent realignment, the country office Civil Society Specialists in LCR will now be mapped to their respective CMUs and report directly to Katherine Bain instead of to LCSES. The staff affected are:

- Jairo Arboledo, Colombia
- Rosa Maria Blacazar, Bolivia
- Sandra Cesilini, Argentina
- Maria Magdalena Colmenares, Venezuela
- Elizabeth Dasso, Peru
- Jorge Franco, Mexico
- Pilar Larreamendy, Ecuador
- Mario Marroquin, Guatemala

Contact: Katherine Bain (x34708).

South Asia

Seminar on the structural adjustment participatory review initiative (SAPRI)

A one day seminar was held on December 18, 2000, to review the research findings of the SAPRI in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The seminar was attended by Josef Ritzen, Vice President, Fred Temple, Country Director, and other senior Bank officials. The seminar was presided over by Prof. Rehman Sobhan, chairperson of the SAPRI steering committee, academics, and NGO representatives.

Contact: Nilufar Ahmad, SASSD, Dhaka Office

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Francisco Reifschneider will take over as the new CGIAR Director in early February. Francisco comes to the CGIAR from the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), where he was Head of International Cooperation. He has had extensive national and international experience, collaborating with the FAO and the World Bank, and with several national institutes outside Brazil. He received Brazil's highest award -- the Frederico de M. Veiga Prize -- for major contributions to the development of agriculture. He holds a degree in agronomy from the University of Brazil and a doctorate in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

Effective January 1, 2001, **Lars Vidæus** was appointed to the ESSD Management Team and as Advisor to Kristalina Georgieva, Environment Director. Lars will help Kristalina manage the Environment Department as well as sharing the responsibility for maintaining consultations and policy dialogue with the internal and external constituents involved and interested in the Bank's environmental agenda. In addition to these new responsibilities, Lars will take on the ENV Front Office responsibility of overseeing the GEF Program, together with the other global programs currently under the mandate of the Environment Department (i.e. Montreal Protocol, climate change, biodiversity, etc.). He will also play the lead role in managing the implementation process of the Environment Strategy in the next fiscal year.

Welcome to **William Partridge** (former Sector Leader in LCC7C and Lead Specialist for Social Development in LCSES) on his return to headquarters and to LCSEO as of November 1. Bill has spent the past 2 years working on an External Service assignment as an Advisor and Specialist on Resettlement to the UNHCR and Antioquia Presente in Colombia. Bill will help conduct a review of the LCR Region's experience implementing programs on behalf of indigenous peoples over the past 10 years.

After five years as Civil Society and Social Development Specialist in the Brasilia Office, **John Garrison** is moving back to headquarters as the Civil Society Specialist at the Global Development Gateway where he will establish information-sharing partnerships with CSOs throughout the world

PUBLICATIONS

EDP #79 "Climate Information and Forecasting for Development: Lessons from the 1997/98 El Nino

This publication -- prepared jointly by the Office of Global Programs, NOAA, and the Environment Department of the World Bank -- focuses primarily on ENSO (El Nino/Southern Oscillatio)-related natural disasters, resulting from extreme climatic events. However, many of the forecasting tools discussed in the report can also be applied to moderate climate variations, and are increasingly used to assist farmers in their planting decisions, for example in Africa. The Bank has some initial experience with the use of climate information and forecasting in, for example, Peru and Zimbabwe. These early examples could be drawn upon to initiate a small number of pilot projects in selected, highly vulnerable countries. Chosen carefully, such pilot investments would not only demonstrate how climate information and forecasting can best be incorporated into Bank work, they would also contribute directly to poverty alleviation and sustainable development in the countries concerned, as well as part of a broader strategy for natural risk management. Contact: Mahesh Sharma (x32296).

Developing indicators: experience from Central America - - a toolkit

The World Bank, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and UNEP produced an interactive, bilingual English/Spanish indicator toolkit. It helps reveal environmental vulnerabilities that will assist Central American decision-makers not only analyze past problems, but to also better prepare for future disasters. Users can explore the potential impact of specific policies, strategies, and actions under different scenarios, such as "business as usual," "natural disasters," or "sustainable rural development." Financial support for this 2-year project was provided by the governments of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The packet contains the following:

Two books:

"Developing Indicators: Lessons Learned from Central America", and
"Forest Sector Indicators: An Approach for Central America"

Two Analytical examples:

"Using Information to Improve Decisionmaking: Climatic Risk in Central America", and
"From Indices to Policy Implications: Land Use in Central America"

One CD:

"Indicadores de sustentabilidad rural: Una visión para América Central"

and one Poster:

"A One-Stop Shop to Successful Indicator Development"

Contact: John Dixon (x38594).

Involuntary resettlement: comparative perspectives, volume 2.

Since the 1980s, the Bank has implemented guidelines for policies with respect to displacement, social infrastructure and services, environmental impacts, relocation, compensation, and the restoration of incomes for those affected by Bank-assisted projects, particularly large dams. This volume builds up on earlier studies and fieldwork, to offer a broad look at eight dam-building projects in six countries (India, Thailand, Togo, China, Indonesia, and Brazil) and to review the outcomes of Bank policy, learn from experience, and assess outside criticism. In addition to its case-by-case analysis of countries and projects, the book includes detailed lessons and recommendations to strengthen resettlement policy and practice. Contact: Juicy Qureishi-Guq (x80382).

LCR Sustainable Development Working Papers

The LCR Sustainable Development Working Paper series produced by LCSES published three new papers in November and December. Papers are available from Peter Brandriss.

- La Raza y la Pobreza: Consulta Interagencias sobre Afrolatinoamericanos (edición preliminar). Proceedings of the June 19, 2000 roundtable in Washington, DC. Various authors. Paper No. 9
- Strengthening Indigenous Organizations: The World Bank's Indigenous Capacity-Building Program in Latin America." Jorge E. Uquillas and Teresa Aparicio Gabara. Paper No. 10.
- Local Governments and Sustainable Rural Development: Effects and Potential Sustainability of the Rural Municipalities Project (Protierra) in Nicaragua. Maurizio Guadagni, Gabriela Boyer, Aidan Gulliver, Paola Perez-Alemán, and Dagoberto Rivera. Paper No. 11.

TRAINING**Urban air quality management in Latin American cities - - a distance learning course**

December 15 saw the successful conclusion of the first delivery of a new and exciting component of the Clean Air Initiative for Latin American Cities: the Distance Learning Course on Urban Air Quality Management. The course was developed by the World Bank Institute's Clean Air team, together with colleagues from LCSES, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The eight two-hour sessions were broadcast out of the Bank's distance learning center in Washington to 17 sites in Latin America through the digital network of the Asociación de Televisión Educativa Iberoamericana (ATEI). The course, delivered entirely in Spanish, presented an overview of the main topics in air quality management, and policy issues regarding air pollution prevention and control from the transport, industrial and energy sectors, making maximum use of locally relevant issues and constraints in the discussions, exercises and assignments. **A second delivery of the course is tentatively scheduled for May/June 2001.** For further information, please visit our website at www.worldbank.org/cleanair or contact us at clean_air@worldbank.org
Contact: Alexandra Klöpfer (x34645).

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND WORKSHOP

Policy, legal, and technical aspects of IT application to land administration:

A case study of the automation of Saskatchewan's (Canada) land titles and registry system.

Seminar date: Thursday, January 11, 2001

Time: 12:30 - 14:00

Site: World Bank Main Complex

Room: MC10 - W150

The seminar will be delivered by the Chief Operating Officer of the Saskatchewan Information Services Corporation -- Ron Hewitt -- and his team who run the land titles and registry systems. Saskatchewan enjoys a stable land administration system based on solid fundamental principles of the Torren's Land Administration system that was developed over 100 years ago. However, totally paper-based, regionally-based, and highly labor reliant, the system has not been able to keep pace with customer demands. Rather than simply automating the existing system, as had been done in all other Canadian (and other worldwide) jurisdictions, Saskatchewan took the bold step of taking a major leap forward. In addition to a radically innovative and technologically advanced computer system, Saskatchewan completely re-developed its land titles system from the bottom up. Extensive policy re-development, process re-engineering and legal review were undertaken. This resulted in simplified, customer-focused, new legislation, regulations, and policies for surveys and land titles and consequential amendments to more than 70 other statutes.

Contact: Frank Byamuguisha (x34198).

Agriculture, SPS, and the environment: capturing the benefits of the WTO round for South Asia

Workshop date: January 11-13, 2001

Site: New Delhi, India

This World Bank, UNCTAD, and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) event continues the series of World Bank regional workshops on agricultural trade problems and opportunities facing developing countries. The aim is for countries to share experience, and to identify key objectives and strengthen local capacity to achieve these objectives in international negotiations. The agenda will cover the WTO negotiations on agriculture (including tariff policy, access to export markets, and subsidies), and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and environmental standards. Related issues will also be raised, such as special treatment options for developing countries, food security issues, strategies for rural poverty alleviation, export promotion, and market liberalization. Regionalization as a strategy for achieving negotiating objectives will be evaluated, and areas of further external analytical support and assistance needed by the countries of the region will be explored. Contact: Merlinda Ingco (x33860).

Governing the GM crop revolution: policy choices for developing countries

Seminar date: Thursday, January 18, 2001

Time: 3:30-5:00 pm

Site: IFPRI -- 2033 K Street, NW (entrance on 21st Street, between K & L streets)

Presenter: Prof. Robert L. Paarlberg, Wellesley College

Commentator: Dr. Calestous Juma, Harvard University

Farmers have benefited from advances in agricultural technology for centuries, but the latest innovation, transgenic modification of crops has generated considerable controversy. In this 2020 Vision Policy Seminar, Prof. Robert Paarlberg will present an up-to-date snapshot and analysis of developing-country policies towards GM crops from four countries: Brazil, China, India, and Kenya, using a system he has devised for classifying policy choices toward GM crops in the areas of intellectual property rights, food safety, biosafety, trade, and public research investment. He will explain the differences among the four countries in these policy areas, and will offer lessons for other developing countries grappling with these controversial issues. Prof. Paarlberg is a professor of political science at Wellesley College and an associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Copies of his 2020 discussion paper, *Governing the GM Crop Revolution: Policy Choices for Developing Countries* (December 2000), will be available at the meeting. Dr. Juma is with the Center for International Development, Kennedy School of Government, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Visit the IFPRI web site (www.ifpri.org) for the latest IFPRI news and to download hundreds of food policy research publications.

Contact: Simone Hill Lee (202) 862-8107 or s.hill-lee@cgiar.org

Poverty & Environment

Workshop date: January 18, 2001

Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Site: Room I 12-420.

Julia Bucknall will present the Environment Strategy Background paper on "Poverty and Environment," which uses a framework of health, livelihoods, and vulnerability to describe the link between environmental conditions and poverty. The paper tries to show the impacts to the Bank of changing from the current, implicit environmental strategy which maximizes environmental benefits, to one which maximizes benefits to the poor.

Contact: Karen Ravenelle

Principles of environmental compliance and enforcement

Workshop date: January 25, 2001

WBI and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) are pleased to announce a one-day executive workshop on Principles of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement which is open to all Bank staff. There will be no chargeback fee for this course and staff time should be covered by the respective units. The objective of the course is to empower Bank staff to assist client countries in designing effective compliance strategies and enforcement programs. The course defines the terms compliance and enforcement, introduces basic principles, and explores different approaches for implementing each element of the framework. It introduces participants to the various approaches different countries have found useful in developing their own enforcement programs, and it provides participants with the tools to successfully carry out this task in their unique settings. The course also examines strategies for designing an effective program with limited resources -- a continuing challenge for all of the Bank's clients. The course will be taught by USEPA instructors.

Contact: Eileen Heffern by January 15, 2001 to register (x82416).

Choice at a macro level: increasing the value of Participation in country-owned PRSPs

Workshop date: April 3-6, 2001

Site: World Bank Headquarters

An international workshop on participatory processes at the macro level, with a focus on PRSPs, will be a platform from which principal members of PRSP working groups from 8-10 countries will launch their participatory strategies. Participants will learn from, and interact with, a key group of pioneers of participatory work in contexts such as:

- assessing poverty (including self-rated poverty and PPAs);
- macroeconomic policy formulation (including social partnerships and sectoral reforms);
- managing and monitoring public expenditures (including budget formulation, analysis and monitoring); and
- monitoring the implementation and impact of economic and social policies (participatory monitoring and evaluation).

More than 100 participants are expected, including representatives of 3-4 countries who have experience with participation in their own PRSP processes and donor agency representatives.

Contact: Sue Jacobs (x31611).

CALENDAR

January

25-30 World Economic Forum
Venue: Davos, Switzerland

February

13-23 Commission for Social Development
Sponsor: UN
Venue: New York

21-23 ESSD Tokyo Forum
Venue: Tokyo, Japan

25-27 World Commission on Dams Forum
Venue: Capetown, South Africa

March

26-30 Commission on Population and Development
Sponsor: UN
Venue: Geneva

April

22 Earth Day

16-27 Commission on Sustainable Development
Sponsor: UN
Venue: New York

23-27 Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Sponsor: FAO
Venue: Rome

Contributors: Nilufar Ahmad, Shawki Barghouti, Peter Brandriss, Lynn Brown, Kerstin Canby, Jim Cantrell, Gonzalo Castro, Frode Davanger, Mary-Ellen Foley, John Garrison, Shirley Geer, Robert Goodland, Anita Gordon, Maurizio Guadagni, Eileen Heffern, Caryl Jones-Swahn, Alexandra Klopfer, Kazuhide Kuroda, Vidhya Muthuram, Ken Newcombe, Daniel Owen, Stefano Pagiola, Jason Jacques Paiement, G.T. Keith Pitman, William Reuben, Susan Scurlock Theiler, Jeff Thindwa, Robert L. Thompson, Jason Wettstein, Deborah Youssef

"ESSentials" is the quarterly internal newsletter of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank Group. Its purpose is to unify the 800 network staff, including 100 in field offices, and to share important news on sustainable development with network staff and interested Bank colleagues. Please send ideas or articles to Kristyn Ebro, editor, MC4-119, x82736. To obtain prior issues of "ESSentials" or more information on ESSD, check our website: <http://essd>