

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM IIED: Issue 32 – March 2006

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<http://www.iied.org>

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW DVD

Nine films: covering the work of federations of the urban poor in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Kenya, Ghana and India.

Slum/Shack Dwellers International has produced a DVD with nine films covering the work of federations of the urban poor in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Kenya, Ghana and India. It also includes a film on an exchange between the South African federations and Argentina. Copies of this DVD can be purchased from IIED

Price: £10 or US\$ 20 (including postage)

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Fax or e-mail details of your credit card to Stephanie Ray (44) 207 388 2826,

Stephanie.ray@iied.org <mailto:Stephanie.ray@iied.org>

AGRICULTURE

Organic Cotton: A New Development Path for African Smallholders?

Gatekeeper 120

Simon Ferrigno, Saro G.Ratter, Peter Ton, Davo Simplicie Vodouhê, Stephanie Williamson and John Wilson|

Drawing on case studies from Benin, Senegal, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, this paper argues that organic cotton has much to offer smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Experience shows that it is technically feasible, reduces health problems, maintains soil fertility and food security and often supports higher incomes than conventional cotton. All case study projects show positive impacts and empowered, more sustainable communities.

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FORESTRY

Raising forest revenues and employment: Unlocking the potential of small and medium forest enterprises in Guyana

Andrew Mendes, Duncan Macqueen

Globalisation presents new challenges to forest business in Guyana. Knowing how to compete in the global market place is increasingly critical to the forest sector's long term prospects. Given the low stocking of valuable species and slow growth rates of Guyana's forest, large, capital intensive logging operations are proving unprofitable. Limited value is being added within country and few jobs are being created as a result. Given that small and medium forest enterprises with 16% of the allocated forested land pay 50% of the revenues of the Guyana Forestry Commission and employ 75% of people in the sector, the situation begs for a shift in emphasis. This report argues for such a shift, using new technology and better information about niche markets to improve both revenues and employment within the sector.

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LAND

State Policies and land Use in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh

Gatekeeper 119

Golam Rasul

Degradation of land and forests by short rotation, slash and burn agriculture, known locally as jhum, has become a serious concern in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh. Policies and programmes to promote alternative land use practices have largely failed. Conventionally, indigenous people are blamed for the problem, which is attributed to their conservatism and unwillingness to adopt alternative land use systems. However, this explanation overlooks the constraints inherent in adopting alternative land use practices. This paper offers an alternative explanation by examining the impact of state policies on land use in the CHT over the past two centuries.

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MARKETS

Exploring the market for voluntary carbon offsets

Markets for Environmental Services 8

This paper explores the potential for financing small-scale, high-benefit, sustainable development projects through the voluntary and retail sector of the carbon market. Through a literature review and interviews with offset retailers and buyers from the private sector, the non-profit sector and government, the paper looks at how the voluntary and retail sectors fit

into the overall carbon market; who the main buyers and sellers are; what motivates buyers to voluntarily purchase carbon offsets; and how this market can be further developed. The aim is to consolidate information on the voluntary and retail sectors in order to help potential buyers to understand the market and to provide a starting point for those on the supply side to discuss strategies for further developing the market.

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POLICY

The Market for Voluntary Carbon Offsets: a new tool for sustainable development?

Gatekeeper 121

Nadaa Taiyab

Heightened public awareness of climate change and its impacts has led to rapid growth in the market for voluntary carbon offsets over the past two years. By buying into a carbon offset project, organisations and individuals can negate their CO₂ emissions by helping to prevent a similar amount of CO₂ from being emitted elsewhere. Carbon offset projects may include hydro-energy, conversion of methane from landfills to energy, hydro-fluorocarbon destruction, tree plantations, wind farms, solar powered lamps in rural communities, fuel efficient cooking stoves and small agro-forestry schemes. The voluntary market has potentially more scope to invest in small-scale projects with high sustainable development benefits to local communities in low income countries, as project developers can avoid the bureaucratic procedures and high transaction costs of the Kyoto Protocol's highly-regulated Clean Development Mechanism.

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URBAN

A pro-poor urban agenda for Africa: Clarifying ecological and development issues for poor and vulnerable populations

Human Settlements Discussion Paper – Urban2

Joel Bolnick, Happy M Kayuni, Richard Mabala, Gordon McGranahan, Diana Mitlin, Sikhulile Nkhoma, John Oucho, Amal Sabri, Sarah Sabry, David Satterthwaite, Mark Swilling, Cecilia Tacoli, Richard I C Tambulasi, Mirjam van Donk

Developed for the Ford Foundation this paper covers the key aspects of a pro-poor and ecologically sustainable urban agenda for Africa. Drawing mainly on African researchers and activists, it reviews urban trends on the continent and discusses how these have to be understood in relation to the multiple linkages between rural and urban areas. It discusses how an environmental health ("brown") agenda can be combined with an ecological sustainability ("green") agenda for Africa's expanding urban population, and considers the role of federations formed by "slum" and shack dwellers in this agenda. It also reviews the links between HIV/AIDS and urban development on the continent, focusing not only on treatment but also on prevention and protection.

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