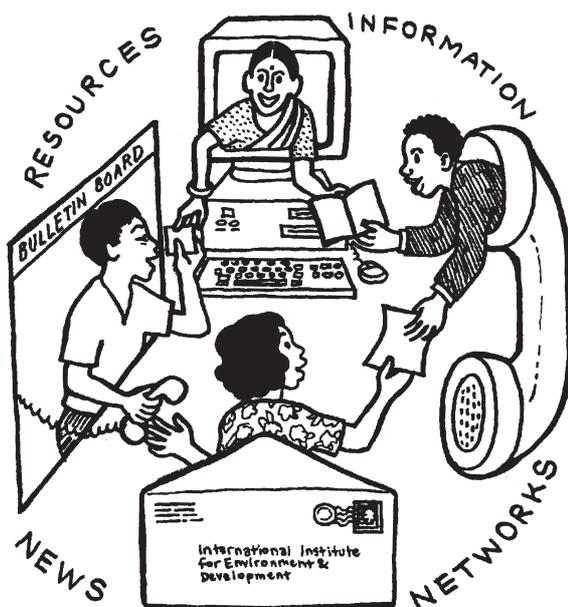


# in touch



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

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

training materials that you would like to share with other trainers?

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

Please send your responses to: *Participatory Learning and Action*, IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK.  
Fax: + 44 20 7388 2826;  
Email: [pla.notes@iied.org](mailto:pla.notes@iied.org)  
*Participatory Learning and Action* is published in April, August, and December. Please submit material two months before the publication date.

## Book reviews



### Inclusive Aid: Changing power and relationships in international development

● Edited by Leslie Groves and Rachel Hinton, Earthscan, London UK. 2004

This edited volume brings together a number of papers presented at an IDS workshop on “Power, procedures and relationships”. It is divided into three sections, i) history; ii) current tensions within aid agencies and between such agencies and other development institutions; and iii) proposals to improve relationships. The editors recognise that the changes in respect of participation and citizenship have been significant, but suggest that further organisational changes are needed in order that aid agencies be more effective. In sum they explain, “We argue that if the new development agency is to succeed, then new behavioural traits and capacities need to be prioritised”. Such new behaviours include flexible, innovative procedures, multiple lines of accountability and the development of new skills for relationship building, such as language and cultural understanding. Internally, new organisational norms based on learning, growth and mutual respect would encourage teamwork. However, stacked against such ambitions is the distribution of overt and covert power and its operation within and between organisations.

The first section includes a review of recent aid from the perspective of the multilateral institutions as well as

a discussion of present tools (and associated relationships) for understanding organisational change processes. The section features papers from individuals involved with different aid organisations. The final section develops strategies for change. There are papers on organizational learning, institutional reform, personal change (and commitment to change), and donors' objectives and strategies.

The volume argues that some progress has been made but much remains to be done. Overall, the authors are firmly (although not uniquely) of the opinion that well-motivated and committed aid agency staff can succeed in changing institutional realities to ensure that aid supports social justice and the meeting of basic needs. There is little consideration of the structural constraints on such a transformation, nor is there much reflection or historical analysis in respect of earlier attempts to reform aid.

#### Reviewed by Diana Mitlin

■ Available from Earthscan/James & James, 8-12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, UK. Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk  
Website: www.earthscan.co.uk



#### Making waves: integrating coastal conservation and development

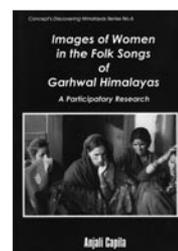
● Katrina Brown, Emma Tompkins and Neil Adger. Earthscan, London, UK. 2002. ISBN 1-85383-912-4.

*Making Waves* was published two years ago – but so far may not have been making many waves outside the coastal management sector. It is surely time for wider circulation, since the book's straightforward, pragmatic

guidance on how to negotiate conservation and development trade-offs is relevant to all land and marine sectors. Based on experience in coastal management in the Caribbean, particularly the Buccoo reef area of Tobago, the book is a careful blend of abstract concepts and real-life examples. The first two chapters deal succinctly with the key ecological and social issues of coastlines (did you know that around 70% of the world's population lives within a day's walk of the sea?) Chapter 3 takes an interesting look at the limits to joint decision-making and the role of collective action and social capital, using examples from fisheries around the world, to develop principles for "deliberative inclusionary processes". More guidance follows on selecting who needs to be included and how engagement can be managed. Chapter 5 is the crux of the book: it takes the reader step-by-step through a trade-off analysis tool, which has many potential applications and adaptations. Specifically designed as an aid to multi-stakeholder negotiations, the tool uses a clever blend of quantitative and qualitative exercises, none of them too complicated, to encourage stakeholders to articulate their priorities in realistic, transparent and comparable ways. The authors rightfully refer to this trade-off analysis tool as "citizen-oriented science". The book's final chapters revisit the messy business of how to manage pluralist processes, offering good advice gleaned from the Caribbean experience.

#### Reviewed by Sonja Vermeulen

■ Available from Earthscan/James & James, 8-12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, UK. Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk  
Website: www.earthscan.co.uk



#### Images of Women in the Folk Songs of Garhwal Himalayas. A Participatory Research

● Anjali Capila  
Concept's Discovering Himalayas Series No. 6, 2002

The book looks at folk songs as a source material for understanding women's lives. It studies the relationship between the life patterns of women in Garhwal and the songs by analysing their content with special reference to women and environment, life-cycle events, social relations, work roles and activities performed, aesthetic depiction and contemporary issues.

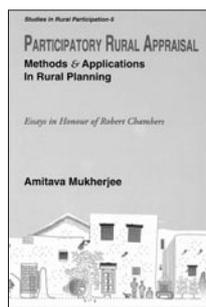
The way the songs have been looked at in this book provides significant answers in terms of the new directions which need to be taken into account wherever human communities are involved. This is especially relevant for India because cultural traditions are largely transmitted orally. This is the core methodology of this book. The conceptual-theoretical framework provides a background to show that folk songs are to be understood as a matter of actual experience, through participation and observation. At this level, folk songs provide cohesiveness to a community.

This is discussed in the introduction along with the importance of oral traditions in the context of Indian civilisation, with special emphasis on folk songs. It looks at various definitions of folk songs, locating these songs as entry points to a culture. The second chapter gives a geographical profile of Garhwal, as well as its history and culture. The third chapter looks at the theoretical aspects of the research and

focuses on the notion of participation as an integral aspect of all stages of the study. The fourth chapter looks at the natural and socio-cultural framework.

The summary and conclusion chapter reiterate the important contribution of this research. Visuals form an integral part of the book – the visual images created by the songs are presented in the form of line drawings. The book also contains some colour photographs. The appendices consist of the songs translated into English by the author, the transcribed interviews with various people in Hindi, and a compilation of the socio-economic cultural background of the people of Garhwal, also in Hindi. Overall, this book has an esoteric quality and is highly specialised.

■ Available from Concept Publishing Company, A/15-16 Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059. Fax: +91 11 5648053. E-mail: publishing@conceptpub.com



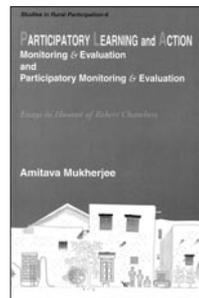
**Participatory Rural Appraisal. Methods & Applications in Rural Planning**

● Studies in Rural Participation-5, second revised edition 2004  
Amitava Mukherjee

Essays in Honour of Robert Chambers

The intention of the book is to encourage wider use of participatory methods in micro-level planning for rural development. The first edition of this book ran out of print in 1998. It was used extensively for training development workers from the development sector, government departments and academicians. The

second edition has been revised in terms of organisation of the chapters and content. In this edition, two separate chapters have been included on methodology – the “soft-system approach”, that is a methodology for micro-level planning where no problem is assumed to exist. The second deals with the “hard-system approach” to micro-level planning, where a problem has been identified and the process of micro-level planning initiated to tackle the problem. In the first edition, there was a chapter on assessment, monitoring and evaluation, which has been dropped from the second edition and given full treatment in the companion volume reviewed below. Though the primary focus of the book is on micro-level planning for rural areas, the principles and methodologies apply as much to urban planning as well. This book, like its earlier edition, is an invaluable guide to all who are interested in micro-level planning.



**Participatory Learning and Action. Monitoring & Evaluation and Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation**

● Studies in Rural Participation-6, 2004

Amitava Mukherjee  
Essays in Honour of Robert Chambers

This book, a companion to *Studies in Rural Participation-5*, examines the difference between Traditional Monitoring and Evaluation using PLA Tools and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E). The book is a combination of conceptual specifications

of PM&E, four case studies from India, where participatory tools have been used for traditional evaluation and two case studies on participatory evaluation from Nepal and Sri Lanka. It shows how the two systems of evaluation can be carried out in different kinds of projects and environments and is an invaluable guide to development workers, development organisations, international donors, government departments engaged in M&E and students of development economics.

■ Both volumes available from Concept Publishing Company, A/15-16 Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059, India. Fax: +91-011-25357103. Email: publishing@conceptpub.com



**Training across cultures. A handbook for trainers and facilitators working around the world**

● Lead International, London, UK, 2004

In order to engage effectively and sensitively with participants from different cultures, trainers and facilitators need to adapt their behaviour and training style in ways that are culturally appropriate. This handbook is an interesting collection of short chapters aimed to help a newcomer engaged in training or facilitation in Brazil, Canada, China, the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), francophone Africa, United Kingdom, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan or Southern Africa. Practical tips and information are offered to help trainers prepare and adapt aspects of the training, from content delivery to logistics and social time, to understanding the nuances

of a new culture and how to build trust and meet participants' expectations.

■ Available from LEAD International, 48 Prince's Gardens, London SW7 2PE, UK. Tel: +44 870 220 2900. Fax: +44 870 220 2910. Email: info@lead.org Website: www.lead.org



### Participation: Sharing our resources

● FAO, Rome, 2004

A resource CD-ROM on participatory approaches, methods and tools available in English, French and Spanish from the Informal Working Group on Participatory Approaches and Methods to Support Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security at FAO. This CD-ROM contains a selection of 215 full-text FAO documents pertaining to participation in development and a database featuring 135 participatory approaches, methods and tools.

■ Available from FAO Participation Website Team, Rural Development Division, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy. Email: IWG-PA-Webbox@fao.org Website: www.fao.org/participation

### Palar Panchayat (Children's Parliament)

● SPEECH/CCFF, India, 2004

On 4th October 2003, the village of Oorampatti, Tamil Nadu, India held the first ever election for a *Palar Panchayat*: a children's parliament. This fascinating film, available on DVD, was co-produced by SPEECH, the Child Rights Protection Centre and CCFF. In India, the *Panchayat Raj* system is central to local governance. The children's parliament has actively involved local kids between the ages

of 14 and 18 in the realities of the democratic process. It follows the children on their election campaigns and shows how PRA methods and processes – such as social mapping and role play – enable children to learn about good governance, leadership, decentralisation, gender, child rights and welfare. The newly elected children will play a key role in the village, working alongside the adult *Panchayat* elected members. As one child comments, from now on they will know to 'review passed performance before voting!'

■ Available from SPEECH, 2/1060 Manoranjitham Street, Ezhil Nagar, Madurai 625 014, India. Email: rcps@sify.com. Cost for orders delivered outside of India: £5.00. Cost for orders delivered in India: Rs.250

## Participatory videos

The following are not new, but are included in this special issue as useful resources

### Lines in the Dust

● Karpus / CIRAC, 2002

This video explores the Reflect approach through telling the personal stories of Sanatu, a village trader in Ghana, who gains the confidence to challenge the traditional roles of men and women in rural Ghana, and Balama, a farmer in India who becomes active in a people's movement – making links between the changing pressures on her village and wider issues of economic globalisation and privatisation.

20 minutes, originally broadcast on BBC World Service TV (available in English, French and Spanish, in Betacam or VHS, PAL or NTSC version).

■ Available from www.reflect-action.org or knezman@actionaid.org.uk



### Participatory Research with Women Farmers

● Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), 1991

Through their large share of work in food production, storage and food preparation, women play a key role in extending and conserving genetic diversity. This film shows how ICRISAT is working with women farmers to preserve and promote their valuable knowledge for the future. Through its focus on participatory research, the video invites reflection on the changes in institutions and attitudes that allow people to learn through a process of mutual dialogue. It is designed as an education tool which:

- Explains why farmers should be involved in the evaluation of pest-resistant lines developed on research stations where conditions differ from those on farmers; fields in the semi-arid tropics.

- Shows how scientists can facilitate a process whereby resource-poor farmers assess genetic material grown under their circumstances and with their own management. Farmers are effectively involved in a decentralized research mode that seeks to complement the transfer of technology model of agricultural research and development.

■ 30 minutes, Available from www.icrisat.org



### Questions of Difference: PRA, Gender and Environment. A Training Video

● IIED, London, 1995

How women and men use, manage and are affected by their natural

environment is strongly influenced by their socially-determined roles and responsibilities. PRA can help development workers explore the links between gender and the environment, enabling more effective work with local communities. This video is part of a trainer's pack and complements the trainer's guide and slide set. The thought-provoking images in the overview and case studies can be used to stimulate discussion and lead into exercises. The overview presents a summary of the key elements for using PRA to

understand gender and environment. Structured as a series of short thematic segments ranging from 2-14 minutes, trainers can select sections to stimulate discussion for specific training objectives. The sections deal with people's roles, images and realities, key questions, an introduction to PRA, thinking about communication, PRA methods for analysis, revealing difference. The case studies show workshop participants using PRA methods to explore gender and environment issues in the field. Each case study takes place in a

unique socio-cultural and environmental setting, allowing the trainer to choose the most appropriate context for specific training needs. The case studies (28 minutes each) can be used as fieldwork examples or for more extended class-based analysis, together with the handouts in the Trainer's Guide. The case studies consist of (1) Exploring Mangrove Use in Pakistan; (2) Exploring Drylands Use in Burkina Faso; (3) Exploring Biodiversity in Brazil.

● Available from [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com)

## Events and training

### Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

**28th February – 18th March 2005**  
IIRR, Philippines.

**Course fee: US\$2,500**

This course is intended to broaden participants' understanding of PM&E as a support to programme/project management at different levels and as a tool for strengthening participation, enhancing local capacity, and increasing local people's confidence and control over development decisions and processes. The course examines PM&E concepts and principles, as well as methods, tools and techniques, which have been tested and used in the field. Drawing from a range of significant experiences, the course also highlights key elements that enrich the application and maintenance of PM&E system.

■ For more information about these courses, please contact: Course Coordinator, International Institute of Rural

Reconstruction (IIRR), Y.C. James Yen Centre, Silang 4118, Cavite, The Philippines.  
Tel: +63 (46) 4142417; Fax: +(63) 46 4142420;  
Email: [Education&Training@iirr.org](mailto:Education&Training@iirr.org);  
Website: [www.iirr.org](http://www.iirr.org)

### Five-day Participatory Appraisal training course

**24th – 28th January 2005**

**PEANuT, UK**

**Course fee: Full cost £380; voluntary/not for profit sector £190**

(inclusive of all course materials and refreshments and lunches on 4 days, but not overnight accommodation).

Alongside 'traditional' users of such course provision (for example, those who are employed in community-based work such as health professionals, youth workers, carers, support workers, housing officers, teachers etc.) participatory appraisal (PA) is explicitly designed to further the ability of local people in identifying and effecting the changes they desire in their communities. These PA courses are open to anyone with an interest in the communities in which they live and/or work.

During the course participants learn about the background and

philosophies of participatory appraisal and how to use the tools and techniques with confidence. Pre-arranged fieldwork placements enable students (in teams) to practice their skills in an ongoing, real-world project. Themes of previous placements have included homelessness, consulting young people and financial exclusion.

■ For more information contact: PEANuT, Northumbria University, Division of Geography, Lipman Building, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, UK.  
Tel: +44 (0)191 227 3848 or 227 3753;  
Fax: +44 (0)191 227 4715;  
Email: [ge.peanut@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:ge.peanut@northumbria.ac.uk);  
Website: <http://northumbria.ac.uk/business/pa/pacourses/>

### Courses available at the Coady Institute, Canada

The Coady International Institute provides leaders, managers and staff of non-profit or development organisations with opportunities to build their capacity to bring about more just, sustainable and equitable outcomes at the community level. Coady offers a range of educational programmes for practitioners at the Certificate, Diploma and Master's level.

### Certificate Programmes May and September 2005

Course fees: tuition: CAN \$2,000; accommodation: CAN \$1,000; total: CAN \$3,000. Bursary assistance may be available for qualified applicants.

The Coady Institute offers several short certificate courses each year, which are open to development practitioners from the North and South:

- **Community-based microfinance**
- **Community-based resource management**
- **Advocacy and networking**
- **Management of development organisations**
- **Community-based conflict transformation and peacebuilding**

Conducted by Coady staff, the Certificate Programmes are highly participatory, providing candidates with an opportunity to share ideas and to exchange experiences with each other and with participants in the Institute's Diploma Programme.

### Diploma and Master Programmes

The Coady Diploma Programme runs from July to December. A new joint Master of Adult Education Programme will have its first intake in April, 2005. Because of the long lead-time, international participants should register as soon as possible in order to acquire visas, make arrangements for leave, funding, etc. Course fees: Master of Adult Education:

tuition only: CAN \$9,970 for international students or CAN \$6,070 for Canadian students. Bursary assistance for tuition is available for qualified applicants.

Diploma in Adult Education: Tuition: CAN \$9,500; Accommodation: CAN \$4,300; Total: CAN \$13,800. Bursary assistance for tuition is available for qualified applicants.

■ For more information, please contact: Nancy Peters, Programme Associate, Recruitment, Coady International Institute, PO Box 5000, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5, Canada. Email: [coadyreg@stfx.ca](mailto:coadyreg@stfx.ca) or visit [www.stfx.ca/institutes/coady](http://www.stfx.ca/institutes/coady)

### Australian Aid Resource And Training Guide (AARTG)

The Australian Aid Resource and Training Guide (AARTG) is a window into for aid practitioners to plug into the humanitarian and development world. It consists of four main sections: advice for those seeking overseas work; useful Australian contacts in the aid field; useful overseas or international contacts related to the aid field.

It is also the main guide to aid-related training courses on offer in Australia. The AARTG is produced by TorqAid, an Australian overseas aid consultancy specialising in disaster management, training, project management, and human resource management.

■ For more information and to subscribe to their monthly newsletter, contact:

Chris Piper, Director, TorqAid, PO Box 13, Torquay 3228, Australia. Tel: +41 2497317; Email: [pipercm@iprimus.com.au](mailto:pipercm@iprimus.com.au)

### Building Communities from the Grassroots Empowering Communities for the Future

**20th March – 25th March 2005**  
**Community Development Academy, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, USA**

Course fees (per course): US\$500 non-credit (4.0 CEUs); US\$764.40 (3 semester credit hours undergraduate credit); US\$899.70 (3 semester credit hours graduate credit). Food and accommodation is separate. Financial assistance may be available – contact CDA. The University of Missouri Community Development Extension Programme offers a series of courses called the Community Development Academy.

Each of the courses is an intensive, experiential, five-day course that explores ideas and develops practical skills for effectively involving and empowering local citizens and leaders in community-based efforts. Courses can be taken for University Credit or professional development.

■ For additional course information and to register, contact: Lorie Bousquet: Tel: +1 (573) 882 6059; Email: [BousquetL@missouri.edu](mailto:BousquetL@missouri.edu) or Becky Humphrey: +1 (573) 882 8320; Email: [HumphreyB@missouri.edu](mailto:HumphreyB@missouri.edu) or visit [www.muconf.missouri.edu/CommDevelopmentAcademy](http://www.muconf.missouri.edu/CommDevelopmentAcademy)



# e-participation

For this issue we have decided to expand our e-participation resources section to include reviews of several websites mentioned in our theme articles in this issue. You will find a wide range of topics covered by these websites. Some have been reviewed in previous issues, but are listed here again to take into account new updates and additions.

## The International Community of Women Living with AIDS (ICW)

[www.icw.org](http://www.icw.org)

This website is a fantastic resource for anyone who is working with or affected by HIV and AIDS. ICW is a network of over 19 million women worldwide, with offices based in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, UK, North America and Latin America. It hosts the Women Living with HIV/AIDS forum – a space for women to engage, network, and share experiences and learning. The site includes guidelines on ethical participatory research with HIV positive women, and has a substantial and searchable links directory, sub-divided into categories such as community-based help, positive living etc. There is also a searchable list of current and archived articles, including key texts from events such as the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona; other documents online, such as *Positive Women – Voices & Choices*; and ICW News Bulletins and fact sheets. All publications are in Portable Document Format (PDF) including *A Positive Women's Survival Kit* in both English and Spanish. Plus information about current ICW activities, conferences, and how to submit articles.

## The UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development

[www.aidsconsortium.org.uk](http://www.aidsconsortium.org.uk)

The UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development is a group of more than 70 UK-based organisations. They work together to understand and develop effective approaches to the problems created by the HIV epidemic in developing countries through information exchange, networking, advocacy and campaigning. There are several key publications and documents relating to ongoing initiatives online in PDF format, such as the *HIV/AIDS Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission Best practice recommendations*. Access to some areas of the site, such as the monthly bulletin, are restricted to members of the Consortium only – membership is open to all civil society organisations that are based in the UK and are concerned about issues of HIV/AIDS and development.

## Oxfam GB UK Poverty Programme

[www.oxfamgb.org/ukpp](http://www.oxfamgb.org/ukpp)

This website focuses on issues of poverty in the UK. It includes a useful online resources section, covering general poverty-related issues, as well as asylum, participation, gender and diversity, and livelihoods. Documents are free to download in PDF format, and include reports such as *From input to influence: Participatory approaches to research on poverty* which gives a UK overview of 'participatory' approaches that respect the expertise of people with direct experience of poverty and give them more control over the research process and more influence over how findings are used. There is also *Have you been PA'd? Using Participatory Appraisal to shape local services* – a report that introduces Participatory Appraisal, showing what it is (and what it is not) and what it can achieve.

In late summer 2004, a new online resource will be available, the Social Inclusion Database, through which information on participation, gender and livelihoods in the UK can be found.

## The Catalyst Centre: Promoting cultures of learning for positive social change

[www.catalystcentre.ca](http://www.catalystcentre.ca)

The Catalyst Centre is an online resource for popular education and research (pop-ed), an umbrella term for social justice education. The site seeks to maintain and further develop the Canadian community of organisations and individuals involved in social justice education. It includes links to its newsletter *Networker* as well as other online resources – articles, journals, educational kits and websites – that deal with popular education and other relevant themes. Categories include popular education and theory, Paulo Freire, popular theatre and literacy etc. Although some of the links do not work or have become out of date, it is still a useful resource for anyone interested in pop-ed.

In addition, the Catalyst Centre and partners have been developing a concept of a democracy – or activist – school. A current working paper on the idea can be found on the site and the project will soon have its own dedicated website. The site also has information about their Popular Education Mapping Project, which seeks to create a 'living map' to reflect the growing and constantly changing nature of the popular education and social justice movements.

## Development Focus

[www.devfocus.org.uk](http://www.devfocus.org.uk)

This site is currently working as a

homepage for Development Focus, which focuses on community participation in the UK. However, it will soon include e.g. online reports from Community Assessment and Action processes. Watch this space!

### Joseph Rowntree Foundation

[www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation carries out work on a range of issues relating to poverty and social exclusion in the UK. Of particular interest is their *Findings* series, which are short summaries of their main reports from the Community Links Social Enterprise Zone (SEZ). The SEZ is a test bed for new policies and services tackling regeneration in deprived areas. Users of public services and front-line workers generate all the ideas. The *Findings* are produced by those involved in running the SEZ and report on the lessons from its first years.

There are also archives of discussion forums, although there are no forums running on the site currently, and a good links section.

### Renewal.net

[www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net)

A web-based resource established by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit that covers a range of issues relevant to regeneration in the UK. Although previously reviewed in *Participatory Learning and Action*, the site has some new resources, documents, forums and links online, as well as events listings and other relevant information. Forums include discussions e.g. around health, education, housing and local economies. In addition to the Local Strategic Partnerships toolkit, there is now also a sport, physical activity and renewal toolkit online.

### Reflect

[www.reflect-action.org](http://www.reflect-action.org)

As discussed in our article in this issue by David Archer, *Reflect* is an approach to adult learning and social change, used by over 350 diverse organisations in more than 60 countries. This website is a great online resource, and includes PDF versions of the Communications and Power manual, one of which is included in this issue in our Tips for Trainers section. This manual contains over 70 two-page, easy to follow PDF documents that are split into themes such as the written word, spoken word, numbers and images. There is also a Reflect calendar highlighting some (though not all!) Reflect activities going on around the world.

### BRIDGE

[www.bridge.ids.ac.uk](http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk)

BRIDGE is an Institute for Development Studies collaborative initiative which supports gender advocacy and mainstreaming efforts by bridging the gaps between theory, policy and practice. It has accessible and diverse gender information in print and online. The site is a 'virtual bookcase' where you can download copies of all BRIDGE publications. These are searchable by theme or by type of publication. Titles include, for example, *Gender and Development: concepts and definitions* and *Gender and Monitoring: review of practical experiences*. There are also links to [www.Siyanda.org](http://www.Siyanda.org), a searchable collection of international materials including tools, case studies, policy papers and research. The site is also a space where gender practitioners can share ideas, experiences and resources.

BRIDGE also includes several *Cutting Edge* packs – such as gender

and citizenship, gender and participation, gender and armed conflict, and gender and budgets, available to download in both Word and PDF versions, and many in French and Spanish as well as English.

### Engender

[www.engender.org](http://www.engender.org)

Engender is an information, research and networking organisation for women in Scotland in the UK, working with other groups locally and internationally to improve women's lives and increase their power and influence. The organisation campaigns to ensure that woman and their concerns have greater visibility and equal representation at all levels of Scottish society.

The website lists events, conferences and seminars, and although it does not contain many PDF documents to download, most documents listed can be posted as hard copies if you request them and send in a stamp addressed envelope. The links section includes, amongst others, links to related websites on disability, feminism, health, women and the media, women and the web, women in employment, women in politics and research as well as links to other related online publications.

### Just Associates (JASS)

[www.justassociates.org](http://www.justassociates.org)

Just Associates (JASS) is a strategic support and learning network committed to strengthening the leadership, strategies and impact of organisations that promote human rights, equality and economic justice. It seeks to enable organisations to engage in and promote active citizen participation, democratic practice and accountability for more equitable and healthy societies through effective

capacity building – combining political analysis, popular and political education, community development, citizen action, strategic planning, conflict transformation and advocacy.

The website contains online versions of two publications that have both previously been reviewed in *PLA Notes 43 – Advocacy and Citizen Participation: A New Weave of Power, People & Politics: The Action Guide for Advocacy and Citizen Participation and Making Change Happen: Advocacy and Citizen Participation*. In addition, there are numerous reports and some training tools.

### Community Integrated Pest Management

[www.communityipm.org](http://www.communityipm.org)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecological approach to plant protection. In the last two decades, Asian Governments, NGOs and international agencies have been working together to organise training that helps farmers to learn about the ecology of their fields and, as a result, enables them to make and implement decisions, which are safe, productive and sustainable. In recent years, IPM farmers have started organising themselves in order to carry out field experiments, train other farmers, and interact more effectively with government agencies. These developments have given rise to a new term, Community IPM. This website is a source of information about Community IPM in Asia. The site is divided into the several major sections, including news, online reports, a newsletter, members, links and case studies.

Online reports include the recent FAO report *From Farmer Field Schools to Community IPM: Ten Years of IPM Training in Asia*. This is broken down

into easy to download chunks, with a list of contents, and each chapter downloadable in either Word or PDF formats.

### Institutionalising Participation case studies

[www.iied.org/sarl/pubs/institutpart.html](http://www.iied.org/sarl/pubs/institutpart.html)

The Institutionalising Participation project has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the dynamics of scaling up and institutionalising people-centred processes and participatory approaches for natural resource management (NRM) in a variety of settings. How can large organisations working in NRM actually facilitate, rather than inhibit, participation and the adaptive management of natural resources? How do roles, rights, responsibilities and the distribution of costs and benefits need to change among actors in civil society, government and the private sector?

This link to the IIED website takes you directly to an online listing of PDF case study publications, as well as a useful summary document. Each case study details both the organisational and impact analysis used to determine the impact of key policies and events that have influenced the design and institutionalisation of participatory and people-centred approaches.

### The Self Employed Women's Association

[www.sewa.org](http://www.sewa.org)

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is an organisation of poor, self-employed women workers. SEWA's main goals are to organise women workers for self-reliance through self-employment, helping to ensure work security, income security, food security and social security (at least health care,

child care and shelter) and by promoting women's capacity to be autonomous and self-reliant – individually and collectively – both economically and in terms of their decision-making ability.

The website details information about the movement, their campaigns, events, and lists related services such as the SEWA bank ([www.sewabank.org/](http://www.sewabank.org/)) which aims to empower women through the support and provision of micro-credit, such as for the Women Farmers Credit Scheme and the Housing Finance Scheme. It also links to the SEWA fortnightly newsletter [www.anasooya.org](http://www.anasooya.org). Anasooya focuses on injustices done to the employed women and the way they are exploited, policies for the self-employed.

### Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC)

[www.sparcindia.org](http://www.sparcindia.org)

This website is a great resource for anyone who wants to find out more about urban issues and the work of the Alliance between SPARC, Mahila Milan and the National Slum Dwellers Federation and with other partners. It contains information on relevant topics such as international exchanges between organisations, and has lists of current projects e.g. about resettlement programmes and community toilets. There are stories and policy briefings e.g. about slums and a good links page. There are some great reports with photos e.g. housing exhibitions by Mahila Milan, and household enumeration surveys. It also has a host of online publications and reports, from water and sanitation issues to capacity building to savings and credit schemes to housing.

### The Nigerian Development Research Centre

[www2.ids.ac.uk/drc/citizen/highlights/Abuja.htm](http://www2.ids.ac.uk/drc/citizen/highlights/Abuja.htm)

The Nigerian DRC on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability aims to identify ways of ensuring that development policy and practice provide more effective support for poor people's own efforts to transform their rights into realities. It is convened by Theatre for Development at Ahmadu Bello University, with collaborating researchers from NPTA, the University of Jos and Legal Watch. This excellent website has information about three current research programmes: Encountering Citizens: perceptions, realities and practices in Nigeria; Theatre for Development and citizenship in Nigeria and India; and Understanding and expressing citizenship through Theatre for Development. It also contains links to publications, working papers, news and bulletins, and recent research highlights.

### International HIV/AIDS Alliance

[www.aidsalliance.org](http://www.aidsalliance.org)

International HIV/AIDS Alliance is a development organisation specialised in supporting communities in developing countries to tackle the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS. It includes various online toolkits, such as the *HIV/AIDS NGO/CBO Support Toolkit*, in both English and Portuguese. There is also the *Antiretroviral Treatment Toolkit* which provides user-friendly technical guidance on planning and implementing ARV treatment programmes in resource-limited settings. There is an extensive list of other online publications and toolkits in different languages, ranging from civil society and development to orphans and vulnerable children, to more general publications.

### Open Forum on Participatory Geographic Information Systems and Technologies

[www.PPGIS.net](http://www.PPGIS.net)

PPGIS is an informal network of development/GIS practitioners and researchers operating in developing countries and elsewhere. Members share common interests in participatory spatial information and communication management, community mapping, participatory GIS practice and science, spatial thinking, memory, and language, cognitive maps, and more. Their aim is to provide disadvantaged groups in society with added knowledge-based resources in interacting with higher-level institutions, negotiating territorial issues, participating in land/resource use planning, management and decision-making, and influencing policy-making. Members can share information and lessons learnt and post questions, resource documents and announcements which are relevant to the practice.

# RCPLA Network

In this section, we aim to update readers on activities of the **Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action Network (RCPLA) Network** ([www.rcpla.org](http://www.rcpla.org)) and its members. RCPLA is a diverse, international network of 17 national-level organisations which brings together development practitioners from around the globe. It was formally established in 1997 to promote the use of participatory approaches to development. The network is dedicated to capturing and disseminating development perspectives from the South. For more information please contact the RCPLA Network Steering Group:

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**Southern and Eastern Africa Region:** Eliud Wakwabubi, Participatory Methodologies Forum of Kenya (PAMFORK), Jabavu Road, PCEA Jitegemea Flats, Flat No. D3, P.O. Box 2645, KNH Post Office, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel/Fax: +254 2 716609; Email: [pamfork@nbnet.co.ke](mailto:pamfork@nbnet.co.ke)

## News from Praxis

### Communication for Change – a view from the South. An RCPLA initiative

Today we find ourselves in a scenario where a majority of the discourse created and circulated about international development is dominated by academics and practitioners from the North. Therefore, the rich experiences of development professionals intimately involved with these issues remain undocumented. Undoubtedly, practitioners from or based in the North represent a different perspective, and it is time for those perspectives to no longer overshadow the experiences and insights of Southern development workers. Often times, quintessential

Southern debates are taking place in the North “on behalf of” those actually involved. In many ways this dichotomy exists only because Southern practitioners often lack the time and the confidence to document their experiences in a manner that is disseminated widely. It is time to develop a strategy to bring the perspectives of the South to the forefront of the discourse. Practitioners being ill equipped to communicate their experiences is not an excuse for them to remain unheard. Instead, we need to think of innovative ways to build those capacities and find creative outlets for development workers to impact change.

To address the endemic problem of Southern voices remaining unheard

in the development dialogue and as an outcome of an RCPLA steering group meeting hosted by PAMFORK in Nairobi in July 2004, the RCPLA has decided to refocus its efforts on a *Communication for Change* initiative. RCPLA recognises that there is an incredible need to facilitate knowledge creation in the South, so that the Southern perspective can be powerfully represented among the discourse. The initiative will focus on: (a) bringing forth Southern perspectives on international development, (b) capturing them in a collective manner (c) utilising multiple mediums rather than just the written word, and (d) disseminating these experiences not merely for sharing, but to impact social change. This initiative seeks to build capacities of

development practitioners in the art of effectively and creatively utilising different forms of communication. Given the global reach of RCPLA, the *Communication for Change* initiative has the potential to emerge as a leading catalyst advancing South-driven social change.

*Communication for Change* plans to expand beyond the traditional scope of written documentation, and challenge preconceived notions that the written word is the only respected form of expression. Instead, the RCPLA is dedicated to breaking down that framework and recognising the power in alternative forms of communication. By building the capacities of development workers to communicate their experiences through writing, participatory video, theatre, etc., activists can be equipped with a range of new tools to affect change.

### First Steps

In order for RCPLA to facilitate this process, it is necessary to establish a comprehensive understanding of the processes involved in communicating through these many mediums. Therefore, RCPLA proposes that the first step in the *Communication for Change* initiative is to create a sourcebook for those interested in communicating to bring about change. This book will articulate the ABC's of how to write an article, make a participatory video, produce theatrical productions, etc. and serve as a "How to" guide on the process of engaging in the development debate in a powerful manner. It will be arranged in a manner that will allow for modifications to be made according to cultural contexts, so that the sourcebook can be relevant to a diverse group of practitioners. This

sourcebook will not only shed light on the specific communication tools, but will also inform the reader of other applicable skills such as advocacy. Therefore, the practitioners will be equipped with the capacity to strategically place their work within the discourse and put forth their perspective in a politically engaging manner.

RCPLA proposes to launch the *Communication for Change* initiative by holding an international workshop in February 2005, which will assemble a group of prominent practitioners from a variety of communication fields. Please contact the network coordinator if you would like to be involved. We are looking in particular for those involved in forum theatre, participatory video, puppeting, etc. The workshop will create a forum for these professionals to focus on formulating the sourcebook. These communication advocates will be able to build upon their experiences in a collaborative manner throughout the course of the workshop and form this sourcebook together. Our participatory approach towards creating this sourcebook seeks to successfully utilise the diverse insights of those involved. Our approach to the international workshop will be informed by the insights gained from a series of writing workshops that RCPLA has conducted to capture grassroots experiences. These writeshops have illuminated the need for training in basic writing skills amongst development practitioners, and have also reiterated the conclusion that writing is not always the most effective form of communication.

### Scaling up

This sourcebook has the potential of

evolving into one of the premier resources in the development sector, which provides a vital overview of the pertinent processes involved in communicating for change. Regional and country-specific members of RCPLA will take the lead and adopt this sourcebook to be relevant in their respective countries. It will then be utilised as a guide in regional workshops where practitioners will come together and make participatory videos, produce theatre, create folk artistic expressions, etc. RCPLA plans to disseminate this guide through its wide array of networks throughout the South, so that development workers gain an understanding of these critical processes. After holding a series of capacity building regional workshops, RCPLA will focus upon establishing regional partnerships between network members and organisations more specifically focused on communication. The network plans to partner with media outlets, local theatre groups, etc. to strategise about innovative ways that these creative forms of documentation can reach a wider audience. Newspapers can become the forum for articles on development, local festivals can become the showcase for theatre and folk art, television programmes can broadcast participatory videos, to name a few of the possibilities. RCPLA will be specifically involved in the capacity building processes and will facilitate the widespread dissemination, and envisions the development practitioners involved to be empowered with additional tools to bring about social change. In the eyes of the RCPLA, the *Communication for Change* initiative is a movement to bring Southern perspectives to the forefront of

development discussions. If practitioners are empowered to creatively share their wealth of experience, the entire framework of the development discourse will shift. The RCPLA is dedicated to ensuring that these relevant voices are incorporated meaningfully into debates surrounding development.

For more information, contact the RCPLA Coordinator.

### News from PAMFORK

#### Background

Participatory Methodologies Forum of Kenya (PAMFORK) is a network under the National Council of NGOs of Kenya made up of organisational and individual researchers and practitioners working in partnership to support the innovation of participatory processes to strengthen citizen voice, influence policy making, enhance local governance and transform institutions. PAMFORK is involved in promoting citizen participation and rights-based development in governance for sustainable development and poverty reduction in Eastern and Southern Africa. It is doing this under the aegis of RCPLA.

PAMFORK is the convenor for the Eastern and Southern Africa Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action (ESARCPLA) network. Other members of ESARCPLA are Zimbabwe PRA Network (ZIMPRANET) and the Uganda Participatory Development Network (UPDNet). Citizen participation and rights has been identified as a key challenge in the region and hence the need to strengthen it in the region. Citizen participation is a *conscious process of an informed and active*

*involvement and equitable inclusion of all sections of typically stratified communities: women, men, older, younger, rich and poor, in the analysis of their own development challenges, priority setting, design and implementation of development interventions.* It entails building capacities of communities to analyse and appraise their situation and empowers them to challenge inequitable resources distribution and injustices among other issues. The approach is based on the understanding that involving stakeholders in policy processes is empowering, since it ensures their participation in the making and ownership of decisions affecting their lives by building on the knowledge and experiences of stakeholders.

#### RCPLA writeshop in Kenya

The above notwithstanding, the gap between citizen participation and rights-based development has continued to widen thereby exacerbating poverty. It is against this backdrop that PAMFORK initiated a process of strengthening capacities of practitioners and researchers to scale up participatory approaches to development in order to take advantage of new spaces opened for citizen participation in policy-making, implementation and monitoring processes in the eastern and southern African region. In the bid to realise this, PAMFORK is convening a writeshop on citizen participation in governance for practitioners and researchers to share current practical experiences, critical perspectives and methodological innovations on citizen participation for good governance and sustainable poverty reduction. The overall objective of

the workshop is to promote citizen participation and rights-based development as a strategy for promoting good governance for sustainable poverty reduction.

The specific objectives are to:

- Create awareness and facilitate sharing of experience by practitioners and researchers on citizen participation and rights-based development
- Enhance acknowledge and skills of practitioners and researchers in documentation, advocacy and implementation of rights-based development approaches for governance and poverty reduction.

The writeshop is tentatively scheduled for late November or early December 2004. For further information please contact the coordinator, Eliud Wakwabubi.

### News from the Asia Region

#### Writeshop on Participatory Democracy

RCPLA held its first writeshop in the RCPLA Asia Region on 21-24 April 2004, in the outskirts of Delhi. We were experimenting with a new concept and luckily with the cooperation of our facilitators and participants it was a successful pioneering initiative. Not only were we playing with the idea of a writing workshop, but we were also trying to see if a publication of this kind could be written in a participatory manner. We brought together a small group of people with a diverse set of experiences to give them an opportunity to reflect upon their work and write. The writeshop was focused around grassroots experiences with participatory democracy, and we were hoping to examine the dynamic nature of

democracy and participation. In today's international community, where neo-colonial versions of democracy tend to be gaining international currency, we thought it was beneficial to bring an alternate dialogue to the forefront. Therefore, the writeshop sought to present alternative perspectives and experiences, both historical and contemporary, to the discourse surrounding participatory democracy. The publication seeks to highlight the unique grassroots work of development practitioners, and place these important field experiences within the broader theoretical discussion on participatory democracy.

The writeshop was organised around four sub-themes related to participatory democracy:

- The right to self rule (analysing fundamental principles of self-rule, not simply in the context of being constitutionally sanctioned);
- Recapturing historical governance traditions (looking at traditional forms of governance and democracy, which traditions we can utilise in the modern context);
- Putting constitutional principles into practice (how can we advance a participatory agenda within the constitutional framework);
- Inclusion of historically marginalized groups (analyzing processes of marginalisation and forms of inclusion).

Although there are a great number of sub-themes we could have focused on, we felt as though this would be a solid beginning to our analysis. Each thematic group was responsible for one section of the final publication.

This writeshop was a strong first step in RCPLA's grassroots

documentation initiative. Our first attempt was a great learning experience, and gave us a number of insights into how to organise a writeshop. As a result of this experiment, RCPLA is better equipped to take this grassroots documentation initiative forward. Now RCPLA can utilise the scope of this network and plan more writeshops of this kind throughout the world. For a copy of the final report, please contact the RCPLA coordinator

### News from the Latin American Region

#### Background on the GNTP

In Bolivia, the National Working Group on Participation (GNTP) is a founding member of the RCPLA and the Regional Resource Centre. GNTP is a national network of NGOs and professionals, which seeks to ensure greater participation of the poor in local governance and decision-making processes. Currently, GNTP is especially interested in fostering discussions of citizen participation in local governance, participatory learning and action and communications for change in South America, particularly in the Andean region (Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia).

Recently, GNTP together with Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG)-Latin America and Fondo de Apoyo Social y Comunitario de Ecuador (FACES-Ecuador) initiated a project titled: *Improving Civilian Participation and Local Economic Development in Rural Areas of Peru, Bolivia and*

1. A municipal association is a group of municipalities which unite to work towards a common objective. These municipalities can unite for various reasons such as to defend themselves against large mining exploration or to resolve common problems etc.

*Ecuador.*<sup>1</sup> This project works at the level of municipal associations. ITDG is a British NGO with years of experience working with civil participation in local economic development and municipalities in Peru and other part of Latin America. FACES is an Ecuadorian NGO which supports local development and strengthening of productive initiatives in various municipalities in Ecuador. GNTP and its partners also have or are developing direct ties to several academic institutions including Nur University (Bolivia), Cordillera University (La Paz, Bolivia) and FLACSO (Ecuador).

Most Latin American countries including Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru and others have implemented some form of decentralisation in the last decade or so. Among these countries, Bolivia has been widely touted as model of democratic decentralisation, but there is still insufficient knowledge of the impacts (positive and negative), processes and results of participatory local governance. In Latin America, governments, NGOs and international donors continue to fund and promote decentralisation and participatory local governance, although they lack the types of information that serves to define how and where to invest funds and how to promote democracy and citizen participation more effectively.

#### Writeshop on experiences with promoting people's participation in local governance in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Brazil

GNTP is organising a writeshop on *Experiences with Promoting People's Participation in Local Governance in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Brazil*, aimed at capturing the rich

experiences that practitioners in these countries have in this area. GNTP would build on its institutional ties and partners in Ecuador, Peru and Brazil in the context of implementation of this event.

The writeshop has the following objectives.

- To provide space and time for authors to share their experiences engaging in Promoting People's Participation in Local Governance the implementation, through presentations and group discussion sessions;
- To review and finalize draft articles through group discussion sessions and bilateral sessions with authors and guest editor;
- To identify and develop overarching common themes, experiences and lessons that emerge from the experiences;
- To provide participants with training on writing skills and mutually build a more effective capacity to communicate experiences to international audiences;
- To provide opportunity to network with one another, and bring new South American partners into the Resource Centres on Participatory Learning and Action (RCPLA) network;
- To produce an RCPLA publication, which would be a compilation of experiences presented in the workshop;
- To disseminate the experiences of practitioners in the South;
- To provide valuable inputs for RCPLA's forthcoming event on *Communications for Change*.

The event is being hosted by GNTP in November 2004. For more information, contact the Latin American coordinator.

## News from the European Region

### From the Participation Group (PG), IDS

Work continues on our *Participation, Power and Change* programme, which seeks to deepen understandings of power, exclusion and processes of social and political participation and change. Within this programme we are working on issues around rights and inclusion, participation in economic agendas, behaviour and change in development institutions, and teaching and learning participation. Recent documents include the IDS Working Papers "*Mapping Trade Policy: Understanding the Challenges of Civil Society Participation*" by K. Brock and R. McGee, and "*Learning and Teaching Participation: Exploring the Role of Higher Learning Institutions as Agents of Development and Social Change*" by P. Taylor and J. Fransman, as well as "*Inclusive Aid: changing power and relationships in international development*" edited by L. Groves and R. Hinton (Earthscan Publications).

A key event in the work of the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability was a collaborative workshop and information stall at the World Social Forum, Mumbai, India, where several 'stories' of citizenship being claimed were presented and participants were invited to share their own experiences. A trip report and photos are available at: [www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org). Meanwhile The Learning Initiative on Citizen Participation and Local Governance has partnered with the Deliberative Democracy Consortium and will be

participating in two joint research initiatives on deliberative democracy. For more information, visit the LogoLink website at <http://www.ids.ac.uk/logolink/initiatives/projects/ddc.htm>. Our Pastoralist Communication Initiative, working in the Horn of Africa, has recently produced two publications: "*Pastoralism: Governance, Services and Productivity – New Thinking on Pastoralist Development*" and "*The Processes and Dynamics of Pastoralist Representation in Ethiopia*". Contact the PG for more details.

May saw the commencement of our new MA in *Participation, Development and Social Change*, which uses an innovative and reflective learning approach, linking conceptual knowledge with practical work experience, and which includes students from around the world. Earlier in the year we launched *Mzizi*, our electronic newsletter, detailing our current activities, new publications and other news and events (contact us if you wish to receive copies). And lastly, 2004 has seen the expansion of our Participation Resource Centre with the welcome merger with IIED's collection on PLA. Now housing around 6,500 documents, books and videos, the Centre offers practical and analytical materials relating to participatory approaches to development, citizenship, rights, governance and the environment. Our database can be searched online, providing many abstracts, links and sources and we continue to operate a limited document delivery service for requests from the South (more details at [www.ids.ac.uk/ids/particip/information/](http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/particip/information/))

## News from IIED

### FARM-Africa communications workshop

In June, FARM-Africa held a week-long communications workshop which was hosted by the London office and attended by country staff. The workshop had the following objectives:

- To raise the profile of communications activities across FARM-Africa in line with the FARM-Africa Strategy *Towards 2015: Innovative Solutions to Africa's Rural Livelihoods* (2003) with senior and information Staff from Africa.
- To share information about communications activities across the organisation.
- To participate in selected training sessions on particular aspects of communications, to build general communications capacity (e.g. communications planning, media, print/production, documentation, marketing and promotion etc.).
- For each country group, to plan and develop a discrete piece of work during the week and to take it to completion on return home.
- To start and maintain a dialogue throughout FARM-Africa on key communications strategies.

The *Participatory Learning and Action* Acting Editor, Nicole Kenton, was invited to facilitate a session on *Using Other publications to Get the Message 'Out There'!* She gave an overview of how to submit and structure an article for *Participatory Learning and Action*, giving tips on what elements to include and the review process. Participants then worked on drafting an abstract on one of their country projects, based on these criteria. We look forward to future contributions from FARM-Africa staff!

### Residents 4 Regeneration Europe conference, The Hague

In October 2004, Holly Ashley attended a three-day conference held in The Hague, The Netherlands. This was the first international gathering organised by the Residents University. The objective was to allow people living in neighbourhoods in various European cities to learn from one another and to let professionals in neighbourhood renewal learn from what they have to say. Following on from the success of the event, Holly hopes to visit some of the UK residents' groups who participated in the near future to run some writeshops similar to the one Nicole facilitated at FARM Africa in July 2004. You can find out more about the Residents University at [www.r4europe.com](http://www.r4europe.com)

If you are interested in having a copy of the 'Get the message "Out There"!' presentation, please email [pla.notes@iied.org](mailto:pla.notes@iied.org)

### *Participatory Learning and Action 51* authors' writeshop

July saw another writeshop in Kenya, hosted by PAMFORK and jointly organised by IDS, IIED and PAMFORK. This time it was an authors' writeshop for *Participatory Learning and Action 51*, due to come out in April 2005. This will be a special edition on *Civil Society Participation in the Implementation and Monitoring of Poverty Reduction Strategies* (PRSs).

The objectives of this workshop were:

- To share the rich experiences of practitioners' engagement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of PRSs. These were shared through presentations and discussions of the articles

prepared for *Participatory Learning and Action 51*.

- To finalise these articles and to mutually help one another build capacity to communicate these experiences to international audiences.

Participants came to the writeshop with their first drafts and feedback from the guest editors, Alexandra Hughes and Nicholas Atampugre, and the *Participatory Learning and Action* Editorial Board. During the writeshop they had an opportunity to discuss their paper with other participants, and with the resource persons, and provided feedback to other participants on their papers. Look out for this special issue!

### Other news from IIED

As mentioned in the editorial, we say goodbye to John Thompson and we welcome Michel Pimbert as Acting Director of IIED's Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods programme. Since joining IIED in 1999, Michel has co-ordinated action research on *Sustaining Local Food Systems, Agricultural Biodiversity and Livelihoods* as well as a joint IIED-IDS project, *Institutionalising Participation in Natural Resource Management*. He was also a coordinator of the Prajateerpu citizen jury process, which was featured in *PLA Notes 46*.

We also welcome our new Editorial Board member, Dr Ivan Bond. Ivan joined the Forestry and Land Use (FLU) programme at IIED as Senior Research Associate in January this year and subsequently our editorial board. Ivan is a Zimbabwean-British natural resource economist who worked for WWF for 13 years, based in its Southern Africa regional office in Harare. With experience in several

countries of Southern Africa, he has been a leading figure in WWF's community based land use and wildlife management programmes in the region – including managing WWF's support to the CAMPFIRE programme in Zimbabwe. He has planned, gained support for, and delivered substantive projects on a regional and national scale – working with a wide range of local and national organisations and donor agencies.

Ivan has also developed multi-disciplinary training methodologies for natural resource management using manuals, toolboxes and games. Through his work he has put an emphasis on trying to make economics thinking useful and understandable to others. He has a particular interest in developing incentives for institutional change and in reducing the transaction costs of approaches that work. Some may remember his article in *PLA Notes* 33

featuring a board game for financial management training which described a board used with local wildlife management committees in Southern Africa, to help them (in conjunction with more formal training) to develop their financial management skills in a way that is active and fun. Ivan is currently involved in work on shaping markets for watershed protection services to benefit local livelihoods.



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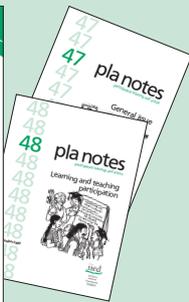
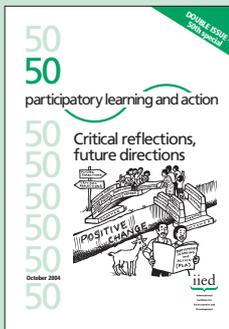
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