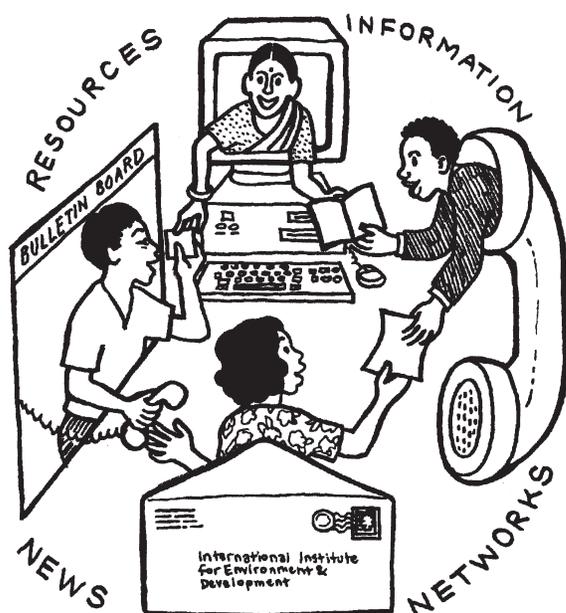


in touch



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:

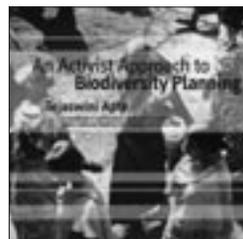
Participatory Learning and Action,
IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London
WC1H 0DD, UK.

Fax: + 44 20 7388 2826;

Email: pla.notes@iied.org

Participatory Learning and Action is published in April, August, and December. Please submit material two months before the publication date.

Book Reviews



An Activist Approach to Biodiversity Planning: A handbook of participatory tools used to prepare

India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

● Tejaswini Apte

IIED, 2005

ISBN 1 84369 548 0

India has been one of the first countries to undertake a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Planning (NBSAP) process under the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the extra challenge of integrating opinions over a vast national scale.

Based on interviews with over 190 people involved in (or, in some cases, excluded from) the NBSAP in four Indian states – Karnataka, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh – this book reviews the key successes and challenges in achieving a truly participatory process of policy planning. Moving beyond general principles of participation, the review identifies precise approaches that work to include diverse local opinions – along with associated risks and pitfalls – emerging from on-the-ground experience.

A range of successful tools are explained step-by-step to help practitioners adapt and design appropriate approaches for their own contexts internationally. Further advice comes from an overview of common lessons across very different opportunities and constraints faced in different settings, ranging from well

resourced to poorly supported, from urban to inaccessibly rural, and from reluctant to enthusiastic.

■ Available from www.earthprint.com. Order Number 952111ED. Price USD 28.00 or downloadable from www.policy-powertools.org/related/NBSAP.html



Our World, Our Voice, Our Media. Community Media Experiences and Skills

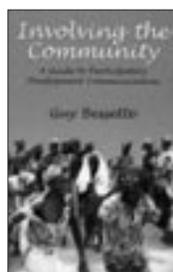
● Editors Ashish Sen, Catherine Kannam, Ekta

Mittal, Meghana Rao, Ramnath Bhat, Tom Thomas
Praxis/VOICES, 2005

This resource guide explores the power of community-based forms of communication. It articulates the role of democratising the media in a contemporary context by exploring issues such as advocacy, media law, piracy, etc. The publication includes a number of case studies from Asia, South Africa and the MENA region and also gives practical advice on how to set up a community radio station, how to produce transformative theatre, community puppetry and journalism, participatory video, etc. This is a valuable guide for development practitioners and others interested in communicating to bring about social, political or economic change.

This is the first production of the Communications for Change initiative from the Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action (RCPLA) network.

■ Available from Near East Foundation in English, French and Arabic languages. Email pisaak@neareast.org



Involving the Community: A guide to participatory development communication

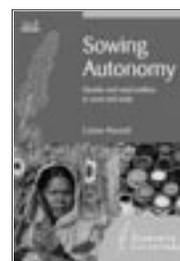
● Guy Bessette
Southbound/IDRC, 2004
ISBN: 983-9054-41-4

Participatory development communication is about encouraging community participation in development initiatives through the use of various communication strategies. This publication serves not only as a reference document, but also as a guide for training sessions. It addresses questions on how researchers and practitioners can improve communication with local communities and other stakeholders, how two-way communication can enhance community participation in research and development initiatives and improve the capacity of communities to participate in the management of their natural resources, and how researchers, community members, and development practitioners can improve their ability to effectively reach policymakers and promote change.

The guide is split into three parts: the first part deals with the role of the researcher or development practitioner as a communication actor and introduces the principal concepts associated with participatory development communication; the second part deals with methodology behind the development and application of a participatory communication strategy; and the third discusses conditions for the effective use of some communication tools with a participatory approach. Appended to the book is a section on

the major trends in development communication, which adds a theoretical background to the material in the guide.

■ Available to order from IDRC and free online at www.idrc.ca
Also available in French.



Sowing Autonomy. Gender and seed politics in South India

● Carine Pionetti
Reclaiming Diversity and Citizenship Series, IIED, 2005

ISBN 1 843 69562 6

Women, through their multiple roles in food and agriculture, have played a major role in shaping biodiversity. This book looks in particular at women's roles in agriculture and especially the important part women play in saving and reproducing seed in the drylands of the Deccan Plateau, in South India.

Detailed farmers' accounts of why seed-saving is essential emphasise the interconnectedness between self-reliance in seed, crop diversity and nutrition. By extension, the realms of food culture and religious rituals (which entail the use of traditional crops) are also linked to seed autonomy. What is most significant about the intertwining of seed-saving, crop diversity and nutrition is that these three realms are largely under women's control. However, the processes of industrialisation and institutionalisation in the seed sector are undermining the very basis of autonomous seed production.

The author argues that a radical re-orientation in public policies is needed to support autonomous seed production in the drylands of South India. Poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation both directly

depend on the strengthening of diversity-based farming systems, institutional support for decentralised seed systems, and reversals in policies for technological and legal developments.

■ Available from www.earthprint.com
Order No. 14502IIED. Price: USD 30.50 or
downloadable from
www.iied.org/pubs/pdf/full/14502IIED.pdf



Inclusive Citizenship: Meanings and Expressions

● Edited by Naila Kabeer
Claiming Citizenship
Series, Rights,
Participation and
Accountability (Volume 1)

Zed Books, 2005

ISBN Hb 1 84277 548 1

ISBN Pb 1 84277 549 9

This book looks at how poor people understand and claim citizenship, and the rights they associate with it. Citizenship is a highly contested term with differing meaning ascribed by different cultures, interests and ideologies. However, the editor argues that aspirations for citizenship entail common core values, including a desire for social justice and self-determination and solidarity with others. To be meaningful, any concept of citizenship carries a conception of rights. In recent years, the 'rights-

based approach' has emerged as a 'new' approach to development, having the potential to strengthen the status of citizens from beneficiaries to rightful and legitimate claimants.

Divided into four sections: citizenship and rights, citizenship and identity, citizenship and struggle, citizenship and policy, this book goes beyond conceptual debates by examining the meanings of rights and citizenships through case studies from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, the UK and the USA.

■ Available from Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK. Telephone +44 20 7837 4014. Fax: +44 20 7833 3960. Email: zed@zedbooks.demon.co.uk. Website www.zedbooks.co.uk Price Hb £55.00, Pb £17.95.



African Video Film Today

● Edited by Foluke Ogunleye
Academic Publishers, Swaziland,
2003

ISBN 0797829318

Video film is a progressive form of entertainment which is becoming more and more accessible across the continent of Africa. The video film movement has managed to develop and succeed, in spite of the socio-economic pressures

Africa faces and is gradually becoming an art form, which traverses many boundaries. This book sets out to explore the driving force behind the video film movement, the people and processes involved and how this art form can be improved. It also addresses various topics such as the historical background of the movement and how video film is received in other countries. Themes such as language, religion, genre and ethical issues are also considered. The book draws upon experiences and observations of the video film movement in Nigeria, Ghana, Lesotho and the Democratic Republic of Congo Kinshasa, reflecting on the use of video film to promote social political awareness throughout the continent. One chapter addresses the new image of women in Nigerian video films. The book also reflects on how video film promotes local artistic expression giving a voice to the people that are increasingly becoming marginalised by the global media.

■ Available from African Books Collective Ltd, The Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street, Oxford, OX1 1HU, UK. Telephone: +44 1865 726686, Fax: +44 1865 793298. Email: abc@africanbookscollective.com Website: www.africanbookscollective.com Price £16.95.

Events and training

Advanced Learning Design Global Learning Partners, Canada Toronto: 10th – 13th January 2006

Advanced Learning Design builds on the foundation of Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach with a focus on design principles. Each participant revises a course design from her/his workplace based on peer and instructor feedback. To learn more, please visit

www.globalelearning.com/ALD.htm

■ For more information, please contact: Dwayne Hodgson, GLP Canadian and International Programmes Director. Email: dhodgson@globalelearning.com; Tel: +1 866 284 4572 (toll free); Fax: +613 598 0094

Participatory Approaches in Science and Technology (PATH) Conference, 4th – 7th June 2006 Edinburgh, UK.

The PATH conference aims to explore how best to involve stakeholders and the public in policy development and decision-making on science and technology issues. The conference will bring together policy makers, practitioners and academics to exchange knowledge and explore future directions for public participation in these areas. Using a combination of keynote speakers; papers addressing state of the art theory and practical examples; and interactive sessions exploring good practice approaches, participants will

consider experiences and innovative ideas from around the world. The conference will be small and focused with a limited attendance of around 120 delegates. The organisers would like to invite contributions of oral presentations, posters and interactive sessions in the following areas under the science and technology theme:

- Scaling up participatory processes from local to European and global scale
- Theories of representation in participatory approaches and their practical implications
- Evaluation of methods to allow multiple interests, viewpoints and values to be expressed and deliberated in participatory processes
- Gender aspects of participation in decision-making and policy development
- Case studies illustrating innovative approaches to involving the public in science and technology, especially (but not exclusively) in the areas of:
 - genetically modified crops in agriculture
 - biodiversity conservation
 - nanotechnology
 - water resource management

The conference is organised by the Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, as part of the PATH project. Deadline for submissions: 13th January 2006.

■ Further details can be found on the website: www.macaulay.ac.uk/PATHconference/ or by contacting Jane Lund, email: j.lund@macaulay.ac.uk or Wendy Kenyon, email: w.kenyon@macaulay.ac.uk.

Foundation degree in Active Citizenship and Participation September 2006 Bradford University, UK

This course is a two-year degree (three years part time) intended for those who would like to or are currently working to encourage active citizenship and greater participation either within local communities or within local services. It is designed for people on 'both sides of the equation': both those within and those outside formal institutions and has been developed by staff at the International Centre for Participation Studies with Peace Studies, working closely with a group of local employers and stakeholders.

Foundation Degrees are two-year vocational degrees (3 years part time), which include a significant element of work-based learning. Successful Foundation degree graduates can then transfer to the final year of existing honours degrees within the University.

This course is being run in partnership with the School of Lifelong Learning, who are providing additional study skills modules and co-ordinating the admissions process.

■ To request further information and an application pack for the course please contact Lucy Brill, Programme Officer, International Centre for Participation Studies, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP, UK. Email: learning@bradford.ac.uk; Tel: +44 1274 233210. More information about the course is also available on the university website at: www.brad.ac.uk/booklets/#ssis.



e-participation

In this issue, our e-participation pages are dedicated to online resources that have a tools-oriented content.

Power tools: for policy influence in natural resource management

www.policy-powertools.org/



This website introduces a range of Power Tools – ‘how-to’ ideas that marginalised people and their allies can use to have a greater positive influence on natural resources policy.

The tools include **tools for understanding; tools for organising; tools for engaging;** and tools for ensuring. The website includes

- a tools guide – 26 power tools based on experience from around the world
- discussions of power tools in theory and practice
- strengths and limits of tools in practice
- related research on policy tools in action
- a directory of the many other websites that contain policy tool resources – some links are also listed below.

ActionAid

www.actionaid.org/wps/content_document.asp?doc_id=33

Accountability, Learning and Planning System (ALPS) is a guide for ActionAid staff and partners in their planning and reporting. See the final section on ‘Guidelines in content for ALPS submissions’ – includes a number of useful questions for planning and evaluating, e.g.: appraisals; ActionAid, regional and

country strategy; programme strategy; strategic review; and regional, divisional and organisational reports.

Action Research Resources, Southern Cross University, Australia

www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arhome.html > Pieces

Includes 24 short sets of ideas and explanations of what action research is about. Topics include participation, grounded theory, rigour, and generalisation. ‘Resources’ has a long list of topics, e.g. communication skills, group feedback analysis, and neighbourhood meetings, written in a very practical and skills-based way. Also information about a 14-week public course called action research and evaluation on-line (Areol).

Adaptive Learning Website, South and South-East Asia

www.adaptivelearning.info/

The adaptive learning guidelines, available in English, Khmer, Lao, Bengali and Vietnamese, give lots of useful methods and hints on adaptive learning strategies for natural resource management (e.g. designing a shared learning process, conducting experiments, communicating lessons), based on experience in fisheries but widely applicable.

Advance Africa

www.advanceafrica.org/who_we_are/index.html > Tools and Approaches

Advance Africa is a family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) service delivery project, funded by USAID. *Strategic Mapping* has four sections: process, which involves PRA intervention, interactive group planning, and programme implementation and monitoring; a guide to tools (unavailable as yet); resources, including a technical brief

and country reports (Angola, Benin, Senegal and Rwanda); and links to what conceptual mapping and GIS are about. *Best Practices* follows the same format (with an online database of tools/best practice in FP/RH). *Scaling Up* is the same format, except there are no tools.

Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

www.cifor.cgiar.org/ > Tools

The *Criteria and Indicators Toolbox Series* is 10 manuals on alternative ways of measuring sustainable forest management and human well-being. Includes: future scenarios tool; participatory mapping (a workshop report on boundary and land-use conflicts); multicriteria-analysis (useful when consensus is hard to reach); system dynamic modelling; software and computer-simulated models for collaborative management of NR (Co-Learn); Co-View, a tool to help the articulation of visioning of the future; possible consequences of land-use decisions (FLORES); and more scientific mapping of growth and distribution of trees and animals (VegClass, TROPIS and DOMAIN).

CIVICUS

www.civicus.org > Resources and Services > CIVICUS Toolkits

CIVICUS is an international alliance promoting the foundation, growth and protection of citizen action throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened. The *CIVICUS Toolkits* are in simple and clearly English, with some available in French and Spanish. Topics include e.g.: writing effectively and powerfully; producing your own media; action planning; monitoring and evaluation; and writing a funding

proposal. Links include e.g. Financial Lobbying, A Guide to Budget Work for NGOs, Open Source Democracy, and Cyber Law (>Resources and Services> Books and Publications).

The Communication Initiative

www.comminit.com/index.html

The Communication Initiative promotes enhancing the extent and quality of communication and change information, based in Canada. The communication strategies tools cover a range of topics, including health, training, journalism, participation, and there is a large focus on HIV/AIDS. Search for 'Toolkit' (76 entries), and for 'Manual' (322 entries). 'Materials' has an alphabetical list of links. Focus Points on the home page include children, radio and environment. The Drum Beat, a weekly publication, focuses on a different topic each week, such as polio, East and Southeast Asia, conflict, radio dramas.

Connecticut Nonprofit Information Network

www.ctnonprofits.org/default.asp > NonProfit Toolkits

NonProfit Toolkits include: an *Advocacy and Lobbying Toolkit* (the basics about lobbying, dos and don'ts, sample letters, effective public and media relations); and *Free Complete Toolkit for Boards*, which covers an overview of Board roles and responsibilities, staffing the Board, successful committees and meetings,

and evaluating the Board and Executive Director. The intended audience is from the United States, so some of the practical tips are not relevant to other countries.

Dev-Zone

www.dev-zone.org > Knowledge Centre

Dev-Zone is a specialist information and education centre in New Zealand, focusing on development and global issues. Knowledge Centre categories include e.g.: development practice; disasters and emergencies; globalisation; health and population; human rights; knowledge and information; peace and conflict; poverty; society and culture; and women's issues. Each is further divided, into 'categories' and 'links' to reports, and other websites. There is also a search function, which is useful if you want some specific information, as the site is large.

The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)

www.esrftz.org/ppa/Index.html > Documents > Field Guide

The *Tanzanian 2002/03 Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA): Field Guide* is divided into nine sections including e.g.: PPA themes; fieldwork process; PPA methodology; analysis; writing reports; team roles; and policy summaries. Lots of practical information about methodology in section 5, including e.g. group meetings, mapping, transect walks, preference ranking, gender and well-

being analysis, and sequencing. *Palestinian Poverty Assessment Project*: www.pppap.org/; *Ugandan Participatory Poverty Assessment Process* www.uppap.or.ug/.

Education and Training Unit (ETU)

www.etu.org.za/ > Community Organisers' Toolbox

The Community Organisers' Toolbox covers: work in the community (external work); building a strong organisation (internal work); administration; local government in South Africa; information technology; financial management; HIV/AIDS; and para-legal advice. Each guide is has a number of smaller tools, beginning with 'What is in this guide?' and explains what is covered. These tools are written in clear and simple English, though some information is quite specific to South Africa.

Other websites

Participatory Development Forum (PD Forum) Virtual Resource Centre

www.pdforum.org

This newly launched version of the PD Forum website includes a discussion forum; online documents; and the new Dialogue on Participation, a thematic quarterly e-newsletter. It also hosts the PD Forum Virtual Resource Centre (VRC). The VRC is an innovative and participatory web-based resource centre, hosting a compilation of articles, papers, book reviews and resources.