

## ALL-IN-1 Mail

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### Common Property Resource (CPR) Management and Environmental and Social Sustainability

Knowledge of traditional forms of natural resource management is not new to the Bank. Some task team leaders working, for example, on forestry and rangeland management, have been aware of these practices for quite some time. Staff interested in CPR management formed the Common Property Resource Management Network (CPRNET) in 1995 to share their interests and knowledge in this area with each other and with outside experts.

The practice of CPR management results from a combination of several factors. The term itself points toward a class of phenomena that exists across cultures. Originating in resource economics and political economy, the CPR approach has been expanded upon by anthropologists. From the point of view of the overriding goals with the Bank's work, that is, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, CPR management represents a broader and more holistic approach. CPR management complements the existing emphasis on private property, facilitates analysis and understanding of the interaction of different resource management systems on various levels, enables a more culturally sensitive approach to project preparation and implementation, and contributes to increasing environmental and social sustainability.

A key element in the CPR approach is that it is based on an integration of perspectives, data, and ways of working, as in the environmental sciences, economics, and anthropology. In environmental sciences, it points towards wider perspectives on, for example, how biodiversity is not culture-free, how some communal tenure principles have been shown to sustain biodiversity, and the linkage between environmental and social sustainability. In economics, important linkages with the CPR approach are found in, for example, institutional economics and environmental economics. Finally, in anthropology, understanding traditional natural resource management practices, and integrating this understanding into social assessment and participation tools ensures local participation and consultation with local groups, which will greatly contribute to achieving increased local acceptance and better project targeting and performance.

An initiative is being planned whereby select groups of task team leaders in the Africa and Asia regions will examine how the CPR approach can be used in their respective regions. For more information contact Lars Soeftestad (ASTEN).