

October 2011



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IFRI Newsletter

Letter from the Editor, Arun Agrawal

Dear friends:

We are lucky and fortunate indeed that the IFRI family has been in existence over the past two decades.

Starting with Lin's inspiring contributions, and supported by all the CRCs persistent and whole-hearted contributions, we have emerged as a unique experiment in the integration of the social and ecological sciences.

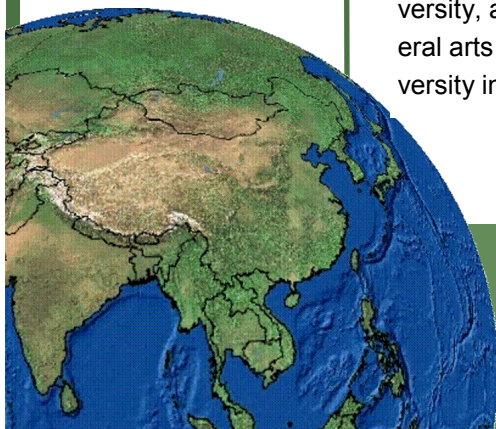
Since IFRI's administrative move to the University of Michigan 5 years ago, we have benefitted from Rachel Kornak's excellent work and dedication managing the IFRI database. Although I am happy for Rachel, I am sad to say she is leaving IFRI in December. Rachel has accepted a new position as GIS Program Development Manager at Redlands University, a small private liberal arts and sciences university in Southern Califor-

nia. This new job promises to be an opportunity for Rachel to use her considerable talents in areas beyond data management and to focus exclusively on outreach and teaching. I know you all join me in thanking Rachel and wishing her the best in all future endeavors.

Regarding data management, over the last few months, we have begun to implement a number of decisions taken during our sixth biennial meeting in January in Hyderabad. Two of the most pressing of these include a data sharing policy and the development of a set of priority variables from the IFRI database. As part of the second decision, we are going to create two IFRI datasets that will make it easier for all our members to take advantage of the data we have been collected over the past two decades. We will share these datasets with the

forest and the user group as the units of analysis as soon as they are completed – we hope by the end of this calendar year.

We have received a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to support this effort, with a small amount of funds for data cleaning and finding information for some of the cases where a few variables are missing data. In addition to the Moore grant, we have also been lucky to receive several other grants to support IFRI work. Lauren Persha won a research grant from the 3ie, and Krister Andersson received a major grant from the National Science Foundation. We are continuing to work to get support from new funding sources that will enable new field work, training, and writing of research papers. We will continue to look for your support to strengthen the IFRI network and activities.



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Hyderabad IFRI Conference

In January 2011, over thirty members of the IFRI community gathered for the Biennial IFRI Meeting in Hyderabad, India. The three day meeting attracted CRC members from around the globe. The IFRI meeting included discussions about the upkeep and sharing of IFRI databases, the perennial problem of finding funding to keep the research going and reports from Collaborating Research Centers (CRCs) in Asia, Africa and Latin America and home bases at University of Michigan and Indiana University. Participants also shared the exciting news of new CRCs in Nepal,

Ethiopia and China. Through brainstorming session and collaboration, decisions were made regarding the new priority variables, and updated information was distributed at the meeting.

The Biennial IFRI Meeting took place in conjunction with The International Association for the Study of the Commons. By planning these two meetings to take place around each other more participants were able to join the meetings and it created a fuller experience for everyone. A special thanks to the Franz Gatzweiler for his support which allowed us to have a strong representation from the East Africa CRCs.

IFRI Class 2010

Last fall The University of Michigan hosted the IFRI Training Course. The course received a great response from the University community and had twenty-two students enrolled. The diverse student body represented nine countries, with five students traveling to Michigan, specifically for the training. The nine-week course taught students key theories and approaches relevant to the governance of social-ecological systems and incorporated a timely field study, survey and report. Training class participants, Jean Paul Benavides and Patrick Bottazzi implemented the training practices during their recent field work in Bolivia. See the article on page 7 to learn more about their field work!

The class was led by Arun Agrawal and Lauren Persha, with guest lecturers by Rachel Kornak.

IFRI Class 2011

Currently, Indiana University is holding the 2011 IFRI training class for a diverse group of 13 graduate students and visiting scholars. The class includes students and scholars from India, Germany, Ethiopia, China, and across the USA. The fieldwork is underway at a rural community with a forested nature sanctuary, which has been visited three times before. In addition to carrying out focus group activities, interviews, participant observation and forest mensuration, the class aims to conduct a comparative analysis of social and forest change over the past 20 years, using current and past IFRI data. Burney Fischer (Clinical Professor) is leading the research on forest data collection and analysis, while Catherine Tucker (Associate Professor of Anthropology) is teaching the social science dimensions of the IFRI research, with guest lectures from Elinor Ostrom and several other guest speakers.

Keep up with your IFRI

Contacts through

Facebook!

<http://>

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groups/1201163547134](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1201163547134)

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IFRI Data Training, Bangkok

The IFRI 2011 training was held June 13 – August 14 in Bangkok, Thailand at the School of Environment, Resources and Development, Natural Resource Management Field of Study (Asian Institute of Technology) AIT. The training was coordinated by Professor Ganesh P. Shivakoti. A total of twelve participants from Vietnam (4), Thailand (2), Cambodia (2), China (3) and Indonesia (1) attended the training. The instructors included faculty of AIT, Mahasharakham University, University of Michigan and Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry.

The most exciting and challenging part of the training was the forest field inventories. Most of the participants had social science backgrounds and had never experienced an actual forest survey before. Many of the participants had not considered the types of difficulties they would face while performing field research. Happily, under the

strong leadership of the trainers all of the scholars were able to overcome these challenges and they were pleased with the outcome of their field research.

At the beginning of the training, scholars were encouraged to develop proposals that would be ready for submission at the end of the training. At the end of the training, the proposal presentations were listened and commented by instructors and a group of visiting IFRI alumni who has an ongoing APN network project in Bangladesh, Nepal. Thailand and Vietnam which was developed during the IFRI training of 2009. During the training two proposals were finalized by the IFRI visiting scholars from Indonesia (REDD +) and China (community forest management). The instructors and graduate students have drafted two manuscripts on the: (1) forest governance and (2) changes in forest status which will be submitted to the peer reviewed journals for future publication.



2009 Thailand IFRI site re-visit analysis paper published

Based on the comparison of changes in forest condition between 2003 (first training visit) and 2009 IFRI training revisit of Kog Bung Preu site in Northeast Thailand, an article has been published in the *Journal of Environment, Development and Sustainability* by Springer.

Zhu Ting, Chen Haiyun, Ganesh P. Shivakoti, Roland Cochard and Kanokwan Homcha-aim. 2011.

“Revisit to community forest in northeast of Thailand: changes in status and utilization.”
Environment, Development and Sustainability. 13(2):385-402.

ForestAction, Nepal-CRC

As the host of the IFRI-Nepal CRC, ForestAction is involved in a series of strategic analyses and policy dialogues on key forest policy issues in Nepal. Imposing bureaucratic control in community forestry, expansion of protected areas, undue emphasis on non-timber forest products and over-regulation on forest based trade/enterprise are some of the priority issues ForestAction addresses.

A rapid analysis tool developed by ForestAction uses multiple methods and data sources to generate poignant studies. The studies ForestAction can create are very compelling and serve as useful tools for drawing the attention of policy makers. Unfortunately, because ForestAction is frequently engaged in urgent political action, the staff frequently does not have sufficient time to develop comprehensive analysis and case studies. They are always looking for the right trade off between political opportunity and scientifically robust research which we find often difficult.



Participants on Sustainable Forest Management and Good Governance, Nawalparasi, Nepal

District level meeting to share ideas on forest related issues.

Nawalparasi, Nepal



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CRC— INDIA, Notes from Rucha Ghate

I had the most fruitful and memorable summer this year! The organizers of the Initiative on Climate Adaptation Research and Understanding through the Social Sciences' (ICARUS) Second Conference accepted my recently completed research paper, A story of conservation refugees: vulnerability and coping strategies, and invited me to attend the conference in May 2011.

Attending the ICARUS II Conference provided me a unique opportunity to meet a number of IFRI colleagues and to visit the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) at University of Michigan. SNRE had been my home in 2009 while I worked on a writing fellowship. In order to leverage my trip to United States, I de-

cidated to pursue funding for a workshop on designing and conducting field experiments.

In order to build a more competitive application I consulted with Lin Ostrom who had helped me some years ago with my original field research. The workshop awarded me a short-term writing fellowship and The South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) generously funded a portion of my travel and accommodations because my field experiments relate to a SANDEE research project. All of these elements aligned and through it I was able to use this summer to complete a paper co-authored with Suresh Ghate and Elinor Ostrom!

Completed

Projects:

Funded by ATREE Bangalore under its small grant program, July 2011 The IFRI – CRC and SHODH completed and project assessing the impact of a relocation on forest dependence and forest health.

ATREE is the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment. ATREE is a supportive partner for the IFRI work taking place in India, as well as all forms of environmental justice and education.



Rucha and Suresh Ghate with IFRI Founder and Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom during a recent visit to University of Indiana.

CRC— East Africa, IFLEA and CIFOR

The IFLEA project funded by VW Foundation is coming to an end this year.

Accomplishments under this project:

Six weeks MSc training course in Ethiopia for Dr. J. Bahati, Prof. Prof. A. Y Banana and Prof. W. Gombya-Ssembajwe

The successful completion of Dr. D. Waiswa's PhD at Virginia Tech. in USA. His thesis is entitled "Dynamics of forest cover extent, forest fragmentation and their drivers in the lake Victoria crescent, Uganda from 1989 to 2009"

UFRIC Team members attended and presented scholarly papers at regional and international workshops. Received two year funding from the German Ministry of Education and Research to conduct work on a project entitled "Forest Landscapes, Institutions and Development in East Africa (ForLanD)" This is continued collaboration with Dr. Franz W. Gatzweiler at the University of Bonn.

UFRIC still has some funds on this project;

Future projects will include:

Training: A regional IFRI training will be conducted at Makerere University for MSc-level students but also officers from the forestry departments. This 8 week long training will be collectively prepared and provided by members of the regional and international IFRI network.

Workshops: Three policy learning workshops (PLW) will be carried out (one each in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda) in order improve the research-policy dialogue and to benefit from experiences made from the previous PLW.

Data Collection: Carry out a few site revisits and analyze IFRI and SANREM data collected over time and write papers for publication

Collaborations:

Recent projects have strengthened the Eastern Africa CRS and enhanced N-S collaboration. Dr. Franz W. Gatzweiler at the University of Bonn have played a key role in sourcing for funds in Germany and promoting regional collaboration of the CRCs. We still remember and cherish the work that Nick Menzies did for us in East Africa to access Ford foundation funds. Franz is playing a similar role.

Publications

Based on the papers presented by the Eastern African CRCs at the biannual meeting in Hyderabad, a book manuscript entitled "Institutional and Livelihoods Change in East African Forest Landscapes" is being prepared in collaboration with Dr. Franz W. Gatzweiler at the University of Bonn.



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Bolivia CRC, Field Research Summary

The CRC CERES in Bolivia, along with the CDE at the University of Bern and the Center for Ecology at the University of San Simon of Cochabamba recently concluded seven-months of field work. From February until the end of August 2011, we have worked in the buffer zone of the National Park and the Indigenous Territory. This area, called Pilón Lajas, is located in one of the areas of highest biodiversity in the world at the headwaters of the Amazon.

Among other activities we carried out six IFRI studies, with two types of populations: indigenous people of the ethnic Tsimane, originating from the area, and non-indigenous colonizers of the highlands of Bolivia. The main question of our project is how the institutional arrangements of local forest stakeholders shape multiple forest outcomes and trade-offs between livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. Likewise, the project title is, "Governance of Forests: Multiple Outcomes in the Bolivian Lowlands, Reconciling livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration,"

The six months of field work has allowed us a unique opportunity to evaluate this question. Interestingly, as researchers we also had to face-down our own subconscious prejudices and values in order to perform the research. Our observations included that the conservation of biodiversity is hardly tenable to populations that live a subsistence lifestyle. Defenders of forests, such as local and international researchers, see biodiversity as an external matter. The agricultural work in wooded lands, of apparent fertility, paradoxically seems more of a trap than a solution to the living conditions of local populations. The more predatory activities, livestock rearing and the mechanization of agriculture, are the best practice, in the eyes of the indigenous population. Unfortunately, the idea of sustainability always seems to have value in itself, but in practice is difficult to understand and implement. The field work, as always, was enlightening.

Now we are beginning the process of systematization and introduction into the database. It is the time that, despite ourselves, we begin to forget the names of so many people that we met, so many mountains and rivers, the many meals we shared. But we continue our work, with the hope that the memories and notes we record will be sufficient to give meaning to the data to be released from my computer.



Work at Alto-Colorado a Tsimane community

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Awards and Honors

Arun Agrawal awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship!

Arun was one of 180 Fellows named in the United States from a diverse group of scholars, artists, and scientists. This prestigious fellowship is in its eighty-seventh year and annually appoints people on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise. Arun was chosen from a group of almost 3,000 applicants.

Congratulations Arun!

Transitions

After two years of outstanding service, Lauren Persha left her IFRI PostDoc position to begin a joint appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and in the Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Lauren will begin teaching in Fall 2011, and remains affiliated with IFRI as a Visiting Scholar. Congratulations Lauren!

Funding News

Lauren Persha and Arun Agrawal receive 3ie Grant

The \$400,000 grant from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation is to investigate the impacts of Tanzania's decentralized policy for forest management on local level governance, forest conditions and household income. This grant will fund research through 2014 to determine how

ICARUS II Conference celebrates overwhelming success!

One-hundred and fifteen presenters and approximately one-hundred and fifty total participants, from twenty-five countries gathered May 5th to May 8th, 2011 exchanging ideas, discussing climate change and adaptation strategies, and laying the ground work for future collaboration and research. Organized by Arun Agrawal, Maria Carmen Lemos, Ben Orlove, and Jesse Ribot, this conference drew an overwhelming response.

Joan Wolf joined the IFRI team in July 2010. In the role of Secretary and Administrator Joan is responsible for the logistical coordination of the IFRI course participants, the Biennial IFRI Meeting and a variety of other programs and events that IFRI staff and collaborators are engaged in. Additionally, Joan oversees the budget and finances for IFRI. Joan can be reached at IFRI@umich.edu or at +001-734-764-9542

improved livelihoods, forest conditions and forest governance relate to each other. In Tanzania, the project will work with a Tanzania NGO, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, forest department staff and villagers involved with forest management. TFCG will collect much of the data, covering 130 forests and villages and more than 5,500 households.



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International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) is a network of researchers that use a common methodology to collect ecological, social, and institutional data about community forests around the world.

IFRI data is used to conduct baseline studies, to measure changes in forest conditions and local governance structures over time, to compare conditions across different locations, and to share information with local communities, researchers, and policy makers.

Keep the Stories Coming!!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of the IFRI Newsletter.

The IFRI Newsletter is a great medium to share events, research strategies and successes with the wider network of IFRI collaborators. The Newsletter can also provide a forum for CRC's to communicate about challenges they're facing and for the group to come together to share solutions and grow stronger.

In order to keep the IFRI Newsletter going we need the help of all the IFRI collaborators to keep us updated with your stories, questions, events, honors, new initiatives, publications, essays and photos.....

If you have something to share feel free to send an e-mail to IFRI@UMICH.EDU at any time. We'll do our best to include your announcement in the next issue of the Newsletter.