



South Asian Network for Development and  
Environmental Economics

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**Dear Friends and Colleagues:**

The highlight of SANDEE's dissemination in the recent past was its strong showing at the Third World Congress of Environment and Resource Economists in Kyoto, Japan. We had two panel presentations – the first on health and environment and the second on natural resources management and poverty. In addition, many of our advisers and researchers presented independently in several sessions. This is clearly a sign of SANDEE's growth and maturity. Thank you everybody for keeping up the good work.

We have other very good news to report. The small SANDEE secretariat has also grown and we are delighted to welcome Pranab Mukhopadhyay, who has joined us for a two-year stint. Pranab will provide technical support on a number of research projects and help with leading many of our other capacity building and training efforts.

Our research support for coastal communities, adaptation and vulnerability is slowly evolving. This is a new area of work for us and we encourage all of you to spread the word about this and send in good concept notes.

Finally, our congratulations to Vinish Kathuria for winning a Fulbright scholarship.

Be well and take care,  
Priya, Rucha and others at the SANDEE  
Secretariat

**SANDEE....**

The South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics is a regional network that brings together analysts from the different countries in South Asia to address their environment-development problems. SANDEE's mission is to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions in South Asia to undertake research on the inter-linkages among economic development, poverty, and environmental change and to disseminate practical information that can be applied to development policies.

## RESEARCH NEWS

*SANDEE's 12<sup>th</sup> Biannual Research and Training Workshop, AIT Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, 26<sup>th</sup> June–1<sup>st</sup> July, 2006*

## NEW SANDEE GRANTS

In response to SANDEE's 12<sup>th</sup> call for pre-proposals, SANDEE received 73 concept notes from around the region. A rigorous review process involving SANDEE's Management and Advisory Committee and regional and international reviewers was undertaken in late 2005. The following four projects received the final grants:

- **Reducing vulnerability against natural disasters: A study of risk coping behaviour of coastal communities in Sundarban, India - Prasenjit Sarkhel, India**

Coastal communities in the Sundarban Delta are highly vulnerable to hazards like high tide surges, cyclones and floods. The degree of damage varies within different occupational groups but the government aid that follows in the aftermath of disaster is largely ad hoc. Prasenjit will prepare a Local Disaster Risk Index, which will rank each occupational group so that the policy makers can prioritise their relief efforts accordingly. The study will document mitigation efforts and coping strategies adopted by different occupational classes. He will also examine the feasibility of augmenting mitigation and coping capacity through different income diversifying projects designed by micro-finance organizations or self-help groups.

- **Evaluating the impact of disamenity (open sewerage system) on Housing prices (rent) in Rawalpindi City- Muhammad Irfan, Pakistan**

Rawalpindi, the third largest city in Pakistan, has a population of two million people. The

existing sewerage system only covers about 30% of the city area and there is no sewage treatment plant. In the remaining 70% of the city, raw sewage is discharged into street-side drains which ultimately flow into the Lai Nullah, the main drain that passes through city. Open sewerage systems have a negative impact on house rent. The objective of this study is to estimate the benefits to residents from ground sewerage system. This study estimates how much a household is willing to pay for improved sanitary conditions (from open sewerage system to ground sewerage systems) and how much abatement expenditures they incur. This will be an important policy input to determine financial feasibility for such a project.

- **An ecosystem approach to a renewable resource management: Incorporating biological and socio-economic aspects into fishery management - Susmita Sahu, India (Study Grant)**

The resource management of a renewable resource like fishery, to be sustainable, requires integration of ecological and economic components. Susmita intends to develop a bio-economic model for the Bhitarkanika National Sanctuary, Orissa, India where conflicts exist over fish harvest and mangrove management. The study will develop a bio-economic model of optimal labour time allocation between extraction of NTFP from mangroves and fishing while maintaining a sustainable stock of mangroves in the sanctuary.

- **Transactions costs and innovations of new institutions in community-based water resource management in Nepal - Ram Chandra Bhattarai, Nepal (Study Grant)**

The experience of local community cooperation in water management in South Asia is mixed. Ramchandra will analyze the evolution of formal water users association

(WUAs) in selected irrigation systems of Nepal. The study will examine how the nature and structure of transaction costs would determine or shape a formal WUA in the case of already existing community managed irrigation systems. His study will be based on field studies in two districts in the Kathmandu Valley. Additionally, it will look at the distribution of transaction costs among different socio-economic groups and its relative importance as compared to costs for individual households.

### **Condolence Message**

With deep regret and sorrow we remember colleagues and friends from the conservation community in Nepal who died in a helicopter crash a few weeks ago. The helicopter was returning from a remote village after a ceremony to hand over the Kanchanjangha Conservation Area Management project to local communities. Among the 24 people on the helicopter were the leaders of conservation and environmental management in Nepal. The Minister of State for Forest and Land Conservation, the head of WWF Nepal, the head of the parks department and the head of the forest department were all on that ill fated copter. Also on board were conservation specialists and dignitaries from around the world. In this tragedy we also lost a conservation hero, Mingma Norbu Sherpa, from WWF, a friend to many of us who have worked on environmental issues and who over the years has relentlessly tried to promote conservation with a 'human face' in the entire Eastern Himalayan region.

## **RESEARCH COMPLETED**

*This section presents abstracts from the SANDEE's working paper series. Full papers can be downloaded from [www.sandeeonline.org](http://www.sandeeonline.org)*

### **Valuation of Urban Air Pollution: A Case Study of Kanpur City in India**

*-Usha Gupta  
SANDEE Working Paper No. 16-06*

This study estimates the monetary benefits to individuals from health damages avoided as a result of reductions in air pollution in the urban industrial city of Kanpur in India. A notable feature of this study is that it uses data from weekly health-diaries collected for three seasons. For measuring monetary benefits, the study considers two major components of health cost -- the loss in wages due to workdays lost and the expenditure incurred on mitigating activities. The study estimates that a representative individual from Kanpur would gain INR 165 per year if air pollution were reduced to a safe level. The extrapolated annual benefits for the entire population in the city are INR 213 million.

### **Local Institutions and Forest Products Extraction: Evidence from Forest Management in Nepal**

*- Arun Khatri-Chhetri  
SANDEE Working Paper No. 17-06*

Arun examines the contribution of forest products from community forests to household income, with particular emphasis on institutional differences in management and benefit distribution. Findings from two community-managed forests (with formal and informal institutions) in the Pyuthan district of Nepal show that the contribution of forest products to household income is higher in the case of forest management without a formal institution than under a formal institution. Poorer households, who are more dependent on forest products,

bear the burden of conservation as a consequence of the access and conservation rules imposed by formal forest user groups.

### **Institutions for Sustainable Community-Based Aquaculture in Village Irrigation Tanks in Sri Lanka**

- D. M. A. H Senaratne and Kalpa  
Karunanayake  
SANDEE working paper No. 18-06

This study examines institutional issues relating to community-based aquaculture in the Anuradhapura district, the most important inland fish production area in Sri Lanka using transaction cost analysis. Athula and Kalpa find that the returns from aquaculture are not adequate to provide sustainable incomes to all members of a given community. Individual participants therefore do not have strong incentives to participate in CBF. The study suggests that sustainability of the programme would depend on lowering of transaction costs so as to allow participants to generate sufficient net benefits from the tanks.

## **RESEARCH NOTES**

*This section highlights new tools, innovative approaches, interesting observations or lessons learnt in the field from SANDEE research.*

### **Sundarbans: The undoing of a successful collective action model**

- Indrila Guha and Santadas Ghosh  
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Sir Daniel Hamilton, a legendary figure in the Indian Sundarbans, was not a typical member of the British ruling class. Hamilton had some noble ideas about developing a community of poor people on the basis of mutual co-operation. He set up an experimental laboratory in the most

inaccessible and hostile secluded land in Bengal some hundred years ago – the vast mangrove forest of Sundarbans. He invited some of the poorest indigenous forest communities of mainland (*adivasis*) to settle there with an incentive package consisting of some land to be cleared by themselves and a food ration for one full year during a family's first year of residence in Sundarbans.

These islands with thick mangrove forest, make up the largest mangrove delta in the world (one of the most dangerous and uninhabitable places). Hamilton's plan was to build earthen dikes all around the islands, sufficiently high and wide to withstand the onslaught of high tides, winds/storms to make the land cultivable, which required massive human labor. Making such efforts obviously called for a unique community cooperation model with private property surviving on community cooperation. This model was so successful that it soon spread to other adjoining islands that were not reserved for conservation.

A common and unsettling report now is that these earthen dikes have been eroded and are on the verge of total collapse due to waning of community cooperation.

After independence, the Department of Sundarban Affairs of the West Bengal Government set up the Sundarban Development Board as a nodal facilitator for all developmental works in Sundarbans, with the Department of Irrigation taking over the upkeep of the dikes. By contracting repairs of dikes to outsiders the State has alienated the local population. Now dike maintenance is an occasional patchwork of activities and is mostly taken up *ex post*, after dikes are breached and locals are displaced. The crucial norm of 'cooperative living' has gradually fallen apart over the last four decades. The critical issue is whether some mechanism can be designed to re-establish the right kind of institutions that can enhance co-operation for survival of these islands.

## **TAKING RESEARCH FORWARD**

Seema Purushothaman is working with the Asoka Trust for Ecology and Environment (ATREE) to expand her SANDEE study and undertake a regional land use study in order to identify the major policy drivers of sustainable changes in land uses. The insights gathered in her SANDEE research also has implications for the controversial Schedule Tribe (Recognition of Land Right) Bill-2005 being discussed in the Indian parliament. Recently, after an in-house discussion, a series of recommendations were made by ATREE to the task force set up by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

As a result of Indira Devi's study on pesticides and health, the Department of Agriculture in Kerala, plans to: 1) build a registry of pesticide applicators and train them in safe handling of pesticides; 2) provide protective gadgets at subsidized rates, when funds permit; 3) re-focus their training programs on pesticide workers (applicators) and not just farmers, as has previously been the case; and 4) discuss requirements for introducing health insurance for applicators. The university extension services are also preparing a pamphlet on safe pesticide application practices that will be distributed through its extension officers.

The policy impact of Arabinda Mishra's research is being felt in a subtle but sustained manner among policymakers. He teaches a full-fledged MA programme on Public Policy for Sustainable Development for middle and senior level (10 to 25 years of work experience) civil servants of the Government of India. Arabinda uses his research work as a case study and this has proved to be an extremely popular and enriching experience for the participants.

Amita Shah advised the Global Environmental Facility on land degradation at a national dialogue initiative, organized

by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Government of India in collaboration with GEF and UNDP in February 2006. She is also using her SANDEE study in ongoing policy dialogue related to revising guidelines for Watershed Development Projects in India. Amita Shah is a member of a consortium called Forum for Watershed Research and Policy Dialogue. Under its aegis, she organized a consultative meeting with the Technical Committee on Viable Strategies/Mechanisms for Meaningful Implementation of DPAP, DDP and IWDP schemes. On a separate occasion, the Committee invited Amita for consultation at the Ministry of Land Resources.

## **PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS**

Balasubramanian, R. and C. Chandrasekaran (2005), 'Poverty, Livelihood Options and Environmental Degradation: Exploring Their Linkages and Designing Policies for Conservation of Irrigation Tanks in South India', in Paul Steele (Ed.) *Poor People, Power and Ecosystems: Experiences from Across Asia*, published by ADB-IUCN joint publication.

Ghate R. and H. Nagendra (2006), 'Role of Monitoring in Institutional Performance: Forest Management in Maharashtra, India'. *Conservation and Society* Vol. 3(2), July-December: 509-532.

Kathuria, V. (2006), 'Controlling Water Pollution in Developing and Transition Countries: Lessons from three successful cases', *Journal of Environmental Management* 78(4): 405-26.

Mukhopadhyay, P. (2006), 'Goa: Been there, done that, now what?' in R. Parathasarathy and Sudarshan Iyengar (eds.) *New Development Paradigms and Challenges for Western and Central India*, New Delhi: Concept Publishers. 110-119.

Dasgupta, Purnamita (2006), 'Commons as development drivers: Economic incentives and the conservation of forest resources in India'. Paper presented at the Conference on *Economics of Poverty, Environment and Natural Resource Use*, held at Wageningen, The Netherlands, May 17th - 19th, 2006.

Dasgupta, Purnamita (2006), 'Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: Some recent evidence from Himachal Pradesh on the implications of interventions for rural women.' Paper presented at the Seminar on '*Gender Issues in Development: Concern of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*', May 2006, Council for Social Development, New Delhi.

Mukhopadhyay, L. (2006), 'Institutional dysfunctionality: A case study in participatory management of forest in Buxa Tiger Reserve in North Bengal, India', presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the *International Association for the Study of Common Property Resources (IASCP)* held in Bali, Indonesia, in June 19-23, 2006.

Das, S. (2006), 'Coastal Protection in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami: what role for forests and trees?' Presented at FAO Regional Technical Workshop, 28-31 August, Khao Lak, Thailand.

E. Somanathan discussed results from his SANDEE Working Paper on Information and Water Quality at a forum that included the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India, Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the President of Harvard, Larry Summers. This was at a high-level workshop on health in India and China organized by the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Business School in March 2006.

Rucha Ghate and Narpal Jodha publicised the forthcoming book of SANDEE CPR studies 'Promise, trust and evolution: Managing the commons of South Asia', at the 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Association for *the Study of Common Property Resources (IASCP)* Bali,

Indonesia, in June 19-23, 2006. Pre-publication pamphlets of Oxford University Press were distributed to conference participants.

Vinish Kathuria discussed his work on industrial pollution control and the role of the media with officers from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Department of Environment, and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute and others recently in Chennai. The institutional constraints to pollution control were of particular interest to this group of policy makers, who agreed that some of the institutional fixes promoted by Vinish could be considered.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Rucha Ghate, SANDEE fellow, has been appointed as a member of a working group, set up by the Planning Commission, Government of India for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-2012). The working group will make recommendations on various policy matters on wildlife, biodiversity, traditional knowledge and animal welfare for the Environment and Forests Sector.

SANDEE's research recently met an excellent market test of its viability and usefulness – a recent marketing review by Cambridge University Press to the editorial board of the journal *Environment and Development Economics* indicated that three of the top 10 articles viewed online during May 2005 to May 2006 were related to SANDEE. Bhim Adhikari's paper got the top spot as the most viewed article published in EDE, while Purnamita Dasgupta's was the fifth most viewed article and Pranab Mukhopadhyay's was the eighth.

## FOCUS

### **People and Places in the Sundarbans of India: the Impact of Trade, on Biodiversity, Land-use and Human Well-being<sup>1</sup>**

- Kanchan Chopra  
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A recent study undertaken at the Institute of Economic Growth examined the effect of increased production and processing of shrimp in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal on its people and their natural environment. The increased production and processing was driven essentially by the increasing openness of the Indian economy since the early nineties. The starting point of the study was the understanding that strategies, which improve or worsen the impacts of resource use on human well being in a region, often originate outside the region and the relevant sector. In other words, the quantity and quality of services available from a particular ecosystem and economic sectors related to it are largely determined by policies on trade, macro-economy, and a range of other influences originating outside the ecosystem.

The study provides interesting insights into impacts of export-oriented shrimp production and processing. Five overarching conclusions that emerged can be summarized as follows:

- In the course of the nineties, aquaculture farming in West Bengal opted for semi-intensive production and processing after an outbreak of disease due to intensive stocking revealed the

vulnerability of incomes from intensive farming technology.

- The ecological cost of using natural resources is not taken into account due to short run profit orientation leading to erosion of diversity.
- Profit driven land use change results in large tracts being converted for aquaculture. Conversion from agriculture to aquaculture is far more pronounced than any other type of conversion (for instance from mangroves to farming) as revealed by remote-sensing data.
- To ensure sustainability of export driven processing and production, information on standards with regard to safety, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures expected in international markets needs to be readily available to industry.
- Incomes are indeed generated in the region due to shrimp activity. Human well-being indices provide an insight into changes brought about in the lives of different stakeholders. Trade-offs exist between different aspects of well being, which the stakeholders themselves are quite aware.

Some interesting aspects impacting different stakeholders from the study. Shrimp farmers in the areas of intensive aquaculture are better off than agriculturists in terms of per capita incomes. However, the security of these incomes is much lower in terms of frequency of normal harvests. Also, while agricultural farmers are not exposed to any conflict, shrimp farmers have a relatively lower level of social cohesion due to constant conflicts and more income insecurity. Also, collectors of prawn seed from the wild have increased incomes and greater life security compared to fishermen. Fishermen also do not enjoy the level of income security, health security and conflict-free livelihoods as salaried and wage earning households in the same area. Some form of alternative livelihood options need to emerge if prawn collectors are to be discouraged from collecting seeds from the wild – as it currently stands, this poses a serious threat to biodiversity.

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<sup>1</sup> The study was undertaken by a team from the Institute of Economic Growth Delhi, India and was supported by the Macro-Economics Office of WWF, Washington DC, and the World Bank. The research team comprised of Kanchan Chopra, Pushpam Kumar, Preeti Kapuria and Nisar Ahmed Khan.

## ECO-NEWS

*In this section we present regional and international policy relevant news, anecdotes and analyses.*

### **Sources of Air Pollution in Pakistan and Remedies for it**

*- Anjum Abedullah, Pakistan  
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The environmental cost to Pakistan's economy is estimated at US\$1.8 billion per year. According to a report released by Ministry of Environment in the year 2000, economic damages from urban air pollution are estimated at about \$370 million per year, with 6.4 million people hospitalized annually for air-pollution-related illnesses. This cost is associated with expenditures on health, economic and production loss due to absentees in factories, offices and schools.

Evidence shows that automobiles are the major source of environmental pollution in Pakistan. During the last few years, traffic in urban areas has increased tremendously due to increase in purchasing power and car loan facility. The number of vehicles in Pakistan has swelled in recent years--from 0.68 million in 1980 to 5.2 million in 2004 showing an overall increase of 635%. Air pollution in urban areas is three times the acceptable limits. It has been estimated that on an average each vehicle in Pakistan emits 15-20 times more pollutants than the average vehicle in a developed country. Pakistan's per capita carbon emission in 2001 was 0.2 metric tons per person, almost double of Bangladesh (0.1 metric tons of carbon per person). Most of Pakistan's carbon dioxide emissions were from oil (54.6%) while emissions from natural gas were 38.1% and emissions from coal (7.3%) accounted for the rest.

To avoid this economic loss, Government of Pakistan needs to encourage research laboratories to investigate the sources and intensity of pollution from different sources,

and develop measures for controlling environmental pollution.

### **Mangroves of Sri Lanka**

*- Thushara Ranasinghe, Sri Lanka  
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Mangrove forests provide critical ecological and socio-economic services for the existence of subsystems on earth. About 29 mangrove species are found in Sri Lanka with patches of different mangrove species along the lagoons covering 87 sq. km. in the coastal regions. Traditionally, Sri Lankan coastal communities use mangrove related resources for their subsistence as well as commercial purposes.

Mangrove cover reduced to 8,000 hectares in 1983 from 12,000 in 1980. Some factors responsible for this are - increase in migration to coastal regions, conversion of mangrove forests for shrimp farming and agriculture, land-based activities such as coral mining, destruction of coastal vegetation, salt farming, infrastructure and tourism-related constructions and unauthorized developmental activities. Decision-makers' inability to recognize the benefits of mangroves and lack of regulation over the use of the coastal resources have accentuated the problem.

The Tsunami in 2004 devastated mangroves in large areas. The rehabilitation and reconstruction in these areas poses a threat to further degradation. Organizations such as IUCN and UNEP have emphasized the need for including mangrove rehabilitation, restoration and conservation and allocating adequate funds. New mechanisms to compensate communities for any costs they bear in protecting mangrove ecosystems, such as payment for environmental services can also be considered by policy-makers.

## **Forest Degradation in Tiger Reserves in India**

- Deepshikha Mehra  
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Project Tiger Directorate and Forest Survey of India have recently published a report on forest cover change in Tiger Reserves of India. In 28 Tiger Reserves the forest cover has reduced by 94 square kilometres between 1997 and 2002. Data was collated from satellite imagery and was substantiated with ground truthing.

The report reveals that the moderately dense forest cover decreased by 251 sq. km. though very dense forest has increased by 33 sq. km. More disturbing is the fact that the forest cover categorized as 'Open Forest' too has increased by 124 sq. km. For the first time this study also made an assessment of forest cover in the outer surround (10 kilometers radial distance from the periphery). Degradation in this as well is indicative of increasing anthropogenic and cattle pressure around Tiger Reserves.

According to another report by the Tiger Task Force which was set up by the Prime Minister last year, average annual allocation of funds to each Tiger Reserve, since inception, is close to INR 650,000, which works out to INR 10,000 per sq. km. The findings of the two reports will hopefully make policy-makers think not only about improving management of Tiger Reserves but also about the present exclusive strategy of wildlife management.

## **Effects of climate change in Bangladesh**

-Mashida Haider  
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With a population of 140 million, Bangladesh is one of the countries expected to weather the worst excesses of climate change. Between 1961 and 1998, the country has gone through an onslaught of cyclones, major floods and droughts, some of the worst natural disasters faced by

any country in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. More than half of Bangladesh's surface area was flooded, affecting over 30 million people and damaging property worth of \$3 billion. In 2004, again, floods inundated 38 percent of the country, killing over 800 people.

According to scientists, there is a link between climate change and natural disasters. Bangladesh has experienced a four-fold rise in frequency of disasters. Droughts have culminated in a mild and short-lived winter, according to a study by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Bangladesh. These dramatic weather patterns are resulting in failed and poor harvests, poor fish-breeding in the delta's rivers, and a rise in vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, which could prove disastrous for a population dependant on rice and fish for its nutrition. There is an urgent need in Bangladesh for better understanding of adaptation strategies to climate change.

## **Gravity ropeway: An alternative transport option for Nepal**

-Min Bikram Malla Thakuri  
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Improving accessibility is an important developmental challenge in the mountain areas of Nepal. In rugged hills and mountain areas, communication and transportation is carried out by human and animal carriers on pedestrian trails.

The national transport plan of Nepal is heavily focused on the construction of roads and bridges requiring high investments of money and time. Air transport is also unaffordable in transporting low priced agricultural products. The experience of six gravity ropeways installed by Practical Action Nepal in Mustang and Dhading districts in Nepal has shown that the gravity ropeway can be an appropriate alternative for hilly regions in Nepal. It is inexpensive, costing roughly NRs.600, 000 per kilometre.

According to 'Practical Action Nepal', this technology is socially, economically and environmentally viable. The Government of Nepal is likely to give preference to ropeways over road building in the hilly areas and in a novel way usher development into inaccessible areas.

## **SANDEE ACTIVITIES**

### **Eco-system Services: A Foray into the field at the SANDEE- EE course in Dhaka, May 2006**

- Jogasankar Mahaprashasta  
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The 3-week SANDEE- EE course in Dhaka during May 2006, gave us an opportunity to co-relate our classroom studies with field experience, through a trip to Satchari National Park in Bangladesh.

*Satchari* meaning 'Seven Streams' form an important catchment area for the Park, which is the latest among the 17 Protected Areas of Bangladesh. The Satchari National Park is also one of the five Protected Zones where the Forest Department of Bangladesh has initiated co-management approach.

Tea estates, Teak and short rotation tree plantations surround the park. The Park provides multiple ecological services such as catchment conservation of rivers, control of soil erosion and provision of a carbon sink. The park also provides biological services such as bio-diversity protection, habitat connectivity, home to threatened and endemic species and improvement of degraded habitat.

The Forest Department, realising that conservation efforts will only succeed if local people benefit from these activities, has encouraged an NGO named *Nisorgo* (meaning environment), which provides eco-guides and also runs a store. We learnt that this is only a beginning and a more

meaningful association of local stakeholders would be essential for sustainable management of the park. Mrs. Rafique Sultana (Assistant Conservator of Forest) briefed us about the park and the departmental functions, with diligent hospitality. Understanding how a park is created, what kinds of services it provides and what challenges it faces, provided practical relevance to the classroom lectures on ecosystem services, their values, and markets for these services.

### **Proposal Writing Workshop in Environmental Economics, ISEC, Bangalore, India, 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

Capacity-building in Environmental Economics research and teaching in South Asia is one of the major activities of SANDEE. In addition to the research grants and its flagship course in Environmental Economics conducted annually at different locations in South Asia, SANDEE also undertakes periodic Policy and Proposal Writing workshops.

This year's *Proposal Writing Workshop in Environmental Economics* was held at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore in August 2006. This workshop was designed to bring together South Asian researchers and to let them develop skills in economic tools and techniques as well as research methods, with peer level feedback at each stage. The workshop sought to provide training in logical thinking, research proposal writing and presentation skills. At the end of the workshop, participants were encouraged to submit research proposals to SANDEE.

The diversity of proposals at this workshop (12 in all from three countries, Bangladesh, India and Nepal) also helped participants to get wide exposure to problems and tools that could be used to study them.

During the course of the workshop, S.L. Rao, the former chairman of the Central

Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC, India) gave a talk on the current energy scenario in India. The workshop also acted as a forum to highlight work by SANDEE's own grantees and associates –A. K. Enamul Haque (Indoor Air Pollution) and S. Madheswaran (Value of Statistical Life) made presentations during the workshop.

Resource persons at this workshop included A. K Enamul Haque (Bangladesh), M. G. Chandrakanth, R. S. Deshpande, Gopal Kadekodi, S. Madheswaran, K. V. Raju, and L. Venkatachalam (all from India). S. Madheswaran (ISEC) was the local coordinator of the programme.

### **Seminar Series on 'Community Forestry - Sharing Experiences from India and Nepal'**

Nepalese Society of Environmental Economists, jointly with SANDEE and IUCN Nepal organized a policy discussion on 'Community Forestry – sharing experiences from India and Nepal' on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Hotel Sankar, Kathmandu. Rucha Ghate, from India and Keshav Raj Kanel from Nepal talked about the issues in community forestry in India and Nepal respectively.

N. S. Jodha, President, ISEE and Prabhu Budathoki, Country Representative, IUCN Nepal discussed the changing scenario in community forestry issues. Government officials, academicians, researchers and forestry experts from a variety of NGOs participated in the program. This also marked the launching of the Nepalese Society of Environmental Economists.

### **Report on the Third World Congress of Environment and Resource Economists, Kyoto, 2006**

- Amita Shah  
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The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Environment and Resource Economists (WERE) was held

at Kyoto during July 3-7, 2006. This mega event brought together about 1000 participants from a large number of countries. The five-day Congress had 190 technical sessions and symposiums focusing on wide ranging themes like climate change policies, renewable energy, theories on environmental policy, health valuation, imperfect competition, recreational activities, etc. More than 500 papers were presented in these technical sessions.

SANDEE had organized two symposium sessions - one on the theme on 'Environmental Quality and Health: Assessing Incentives, Costs and Benefits', chaired by E. Somanathan, and the other on 'Managing Natural Resources for Growth and Poverty Reduction in South Asia', chaired by Amita Shah. Nine papers, based on SANDEE funded research, were presented in the two sessions. This was an important opportunity for the SANDEE-researchers to discuss their work with a larger body of international economists. The presence of the SANDEE advisor M.N. Murty added to rich discussions during the two sessions.

In a different plenary session, Elinor Ostrom while presenting results from a multi-location study referred to Rucha Ghate's work done in India which had partly been supported by SANDEE. This conference offered a great opportunity for showcasing SANDEE's research as many of its advisors and researchers also presented their work.

In addition to the warm hospitality, the organisers took special care to expose the participants to the Japan's cultural diversity. Beautiful dances, songs, games, and of course a wide variety of food was a memorable part of this event.

The punch line, in the words of an official dignitary of the Japanese Government, was that Japanese culture does not permit 'wastage' of any kind! This really reminded us of the need to combine higher economic

growth with resource-use efficiency and minimal waste.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST...**

Simpson, R. D., M. A. Toman and R. U. Ayres (eds) (2005), 'Scarcity and Growth Revisited: Natural Resources and the Environment in the New Millennium', RFF Press, ISBN 1-933115-11-4.

Farrell, A. E. and J. Jagers (eds.) (2005), 'Assessments of Regional and Global Environmental Risks Designing Processes for the Effective Use of Science in Decision-making', RFF Press, ISBN 1-933115-05-X.

Duclos, J.Y. and A. Araar (2006), 'Poverty and Equity: Measurement, Policy and Estimation with DAD', edited by Jacques Silber, Published by Springer and IDRC, ISBN: 0-387-33317-7.

WWG (2006), 'Cost of conflict on Nepal's conservation Efforts', Mangal Man Shakya and Anil Chitrakar, ISBN: 99946-820-1-6.

Titenberg, T. H. (2006), 'Emissions Trading: Principles and Practice', 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, RFF Press, ISBN 1-933115-31-9

### **ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES...**

The Vavilov-Frankel Fellowships Fund - application forms and guidelines for preparation of research proposals are available from IPGRI's web site <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/training/vavilov.htm>.

Watson International Scholars of the Environment Program, for more information visit [http://www.watsoninstitute.org/ge/watson\\_scholars/](http://www.watsoninstitute.org/ge/watson_scholars/)

Vinish Kathuria, SANDEE grantee, was recently awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to

visit University of Colorado, Boulder in the forthcoming academic year for eight months. He describes here the process for the benefit of future applicants.

### **Fulbright Fellowships and the procedure in Senior Research Category**

- Vinish Kathuria,  
[vinish67@yahoo.com](mailto:vinish67@yahoo.com)

The U.S. Educational Foundation in India (USEFI) and the Fulbright Commission in India give a number of fellowships to Indian Nationals in a number of categories. These fellowships are open to Indian college and university faculty researchers, doctoral students and mid-career professionals. Following categories are relevant for researchers and students of Environmental Economics:

- a) Fulbright doctoral program;
- b) Fulbright Post-doctoral program;
- c) Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship;
- d) Fulbright Visiting Lecturer Fellowship; and
- e) Fulbright-case fellowship in Law.

The fellowship amount and duration varies according to the category. The announcement of application is generally in the month of May and the submission of the application along with the proposal is around mid-July. Further details about these fellowships are available on [www.fulbright-india.org](http://www.fulbright-india.org).

The procedure of my selection in category 'c' was as follows: I submitted my application along with a proposal and three referee reports by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2005 based on which I was short listed for an interview. The interview was then held in the first week of October and I was recommended for the fellowship by the Fulbright commission in India to the Fulbright Board in US in the month of November. The Fulbright Board,

U.S. on the basis of recommendation and project proposal, did final selection.

After this, the Fulbright Commission, India, asks the candidate to give preferred place(s) of affiliation, except in case of category 'e'. The Fulbright Commission, U.S. helps in fixing the preferred association.

### **WEB NEWS...**

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) is holding its Ninth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) from 13 - 15 December 2006 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The overarching theme of the SDPI's Ninth SDC is "Missing Links in Sustainable Development (SD): South Asian Perspectives".  
<http://www.sdpi.org/9thsdc/index.htm>

Department of Geography and Center for Environment, University of Toronto and Junior Research Group on Post Socialist Land Relations, Humboldt University, Berlin have jointly called for papers on Community Natural Resource Management in Comparative Perspective. For further information contact Scott Prudham, Department of Geography and Centre for Environment, University of Toronto ([scott.prudham@utoronto.ca](mailto:scott.prudham@utoronto.ca)).

Center for Advanced Study, Department of Economics, and ASIHSS Programme, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India are organizing an International Conference on the Economics of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy during January 2-3, 2007. Please write to Prof. Joyashree Roy at [jroy@cal2.vsnl.net.in](mailto:jroy@cal2.vsnl.net.in) for further details.  
[http://www.jadavpur.edu/conference/call\\_for\\_papers\\_jr.pdf](http://www.jadavpur.edu/conference/call_for_papers_jr.pdf)

International Congress on *Global Vision of Forestry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* will be held on September 30-October 3, 2007 in Toronto, Canada.  
[http://www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/int\\_congress.htm](http://www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/int_congress.htm)

### **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS...**

United Nations Centre for Economic Reform and Development (UNCERD) has announced vacancy for the post of Senior Economist and Economic and Policy Analyst. Please visit the following websites for details:

[http://uncerd.org.istemp.com/SENIOR\\_ECONOMIST.htm](http://uncerd.org.istemp.com/SENIOR_ECONOMIST.htm) and  
<http://uncerd.org.istemp.com/ECONOMIST & POLICY ANALYST.htm>

For information on Kathryn Fuller post-doctoral fellowships in conservation science please visit [www.worldwildlife.org/sfn](http://www.worldwildlife.org/sfn)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS...**

#### **ISEE Conference**

The Ninth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) will be held in New Delhi, at the India Habitat Center, from 15-18 Dec 2006. The main theme of the Conference is 'Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-Being'. SANDEE will have three panels in the conference –

1. Environmental Problems and Economic Analyses
2. Presentation on the forthcoming book 'Promise, Trust and Evolution – Managing the Commons of South Asia'
3. Examining the links between poverty and the environment

Visit <http://www.isee2006.com> for full details of the conference.

# Membership Form

## General Information

Name of the Institution :  
Name of Contact Person :  
Designation :

## Mailing Address

Street :  
City :  
State/Province/Zone :  
Country :  
Postal Code/Zip/PIN :  
Telephone :  
Fax :  
Mobile :  
Email Address :  
Home Page/Web site :

## Brief description of objectives & activities of your organization (Max. 10 sentences)

### Payment Details (Enclose Cheque/Draft)

Cheque no..... Amount (in US\$).....  
Drawn on (Name of Bank).....  
Membership Fee for the Year.....

Notes: This form is for institutional members only. The institutional membership fee is US\$50 per year for South Asian institutions and US\$250 per year for non-South Asian institutions.

*Information about SANDEE and our activities are available online at [www.sandeeonline.org](http://www.sandeeonline.org). Our mailing address is SANDEE, P.O. Box 8975 EPC1056 Kathmandu, Nepal. Telephone: 977-1-552 8761; Fax 977-1-553 6786. If you have any questions about our program, please write to [info@sandeeonline.org](mailto:info@sandeeonline.org)*