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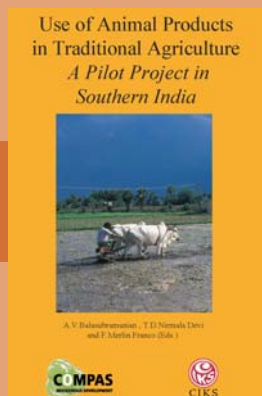


Learning from the Practitioners: Benefit Sharing Perspectives from Enterprising Communities

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) deals with issues of ethics and equity regarding the sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources between those who conserve them and those who exploit them. This study shows that communities around the world are working on access and benefit-sharing in terms that are not typical of international discussions. Fourteen community representatives were interviewed during the CBD meeting in Bonn, May 2008. The implications of communities' actions on their wellbeing were analysed in terms of basic needs, safety needs, belonging needs and self-esteem. The study ends by suggesting that the CBD should not ignore the community perspective, and can learn how communities are applying benefit-sharing from biodiversity at the local level.

Authors: M.S. Suneetha and B. Pisupati, 2009.
Download from:

http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/UNU-UNEP_Learning_from_practitioners.pdf

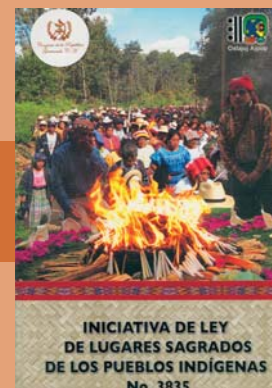


Use of Animal Products in Traditional Agriculture

This book records the results of a pilot project done by the four COMPAS partners in Southern India. Prompted by growing interest in the use of animal products in traditional agriculture, the partners launched a coordinated project to assess claims and counter claims about animal product mixtures used for crop growth and protection. The slim volume includes a survey of the literature on farmers' practices; a field survey on farmers' use of animal products on crops; and the results of field and laboratory studies on the effectiveness of a shortlist of animal product preparations. A useful guide for those involved in this field.

Eds. A.V. Balasubramanian, T.D. Nirmala Devi & F. Merlin Franco

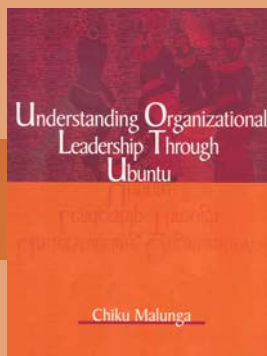
Available as a PDF from
www.compasnet.org (publications)



Proposed Law on Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples from Guatemala

This proposal was accepted by the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala on 19 August 2009. The Proposed Law details how sacred sites and sacred objects will be governed by a Council of 52 persons, giving proportional representation to 10 indigenous groups of Maya, Garifuna and Xinka peoples. The aim of the Law is to guarantee the historic, cultural and spiritual rights of indigenous peoples to know, respect, dignify, use, conserve, administer and access sacred sites in Guatemala. The decree applies to all sacred sites, natural and man-made.

More information: www.oxlajujajpop.org



Understanding Organizational Leadership through Ubuntu

This book offers a creative, innovative and holistic approach to understanding organisational leadership using the principles embodied in the African philosophy of personhood known as Ubuntu. Using African proverbs, folktales and indigenous concepts, the book discusses the organisational principles of Ubuntu and the leadership lessons that modern organisations can learn from these principles. The principles include sharing and collective ownership of opportunities, responsibilities and challenges, the importance of people and relationships over things, participatory leadership and decision making, loyalty, reconciliation, experiential learning and knowledge management.

Author Chiku Malunga is the director of Capacity Development Consultants (CADECO).
Published by Adonis & Abbey
ISBN: 9781906704490
For more information:

www.adonisandabbey.com



International Healers' Conference

In November 2009 COMPAS and its Indian partner FRLHT organised a very successful international healers' exchange on traditional medicine (see also picture back cover). 15 traditional health practitioners from 9 countries visited around 100 traditional health practitioners in the Indian states Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Immediately afterwards an international conference was held in Bangalore. The conference culminated in a Declaration calling on all governments to legalise traditional health care systems and integrate them into official national health care systems, signed by traditional health practitioners, NGOs, researchers and policy makers from 18 countries. The conference received widespread media attention, from the Indian and international press and was co-sponsored by Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health, India; United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies, UNDP Equator Initiative, EcoAgriculture Partners and the Global Initiative for Traditional Systems of Health. A Policy Brief which emerged from the conference is attached to this magazine.

www.healersexchange.org



Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

AFSA was founded on 25 November 2009 to represent small holder farmers, pastoralists, hunter/gatherers and indigenous peoples in Africa. AFSA believes that the current African government practices do not go far enough to protecting Africa's food sovereignty, biodiversity and the culture and livelihoods of her people. The declaration, signed in the presence of the President of Ethiopia, urges African leaders to champion small African family farming systems and protect the rights of African people to indigenous seeds, plant and animal genetic resources.

The Bole declaration was signed by: African Biodiversity Network (ABN), African Centre for Biosafety (ACB), Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN), Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development (COMPAS), Eastern and Southern African small scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN), Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC), Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Association (PELUM).

www.compasnet.org and
www.gaiafoundation.org