

Bulletin no.1 (May 2006)

Competing Claims on Natural Resources research programme

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1. Appointments

Since the first of March, Maja Slingerland (0.5) and Claudius van de Vijver (0.2) have been appointed in the Netherlands for daily coordination and support of the Competing Claims programme. Besides coordination tasks, both will also contribute to PhD overarching research issues, stimulation of interdisciplinary research approaches amongst others, and educational activities.

2. Site/Country coordinators

The following persons will work as site coordinators:

- Almeida Siteo for Mozambique
- Larry Swatuk for Botswana
- Aart-Jan Verschoor for South Africa
- Conny Musvoto for Zimbabwe

(after the issue of this bulletin, Dr. Musvoto's position has been taken over by Dr. Amon Murwira)

The site coordinator, who is also member of the International Programme Committee, will chair the site programme team that consists of the Regional Coordinator, the WU and national supervisors of the PhD students working in the respective sites and the PhD students themselves. The coordinator is responsible for the implementation and reporting of the programme in that country, maintaining direct contact and securing involvement of the different stakeholders involved and securing extra funding

3. PhD Candidates

Ten candidates sent in a full dossier for the Competing Claims programme. A number of incomplete dossiers are pending. The candidates will be classed according to country of origin, disciplinary background and relevance for the PhD topics that were formulated in the programme document. If any disciplines or nationalities are missing we will actively try to recruit candidates to fill the gap. A selection procedure will start at the end of June.

4. Regional Coordinator

Eleven applications were received for the position of Regional Coordinator which was advertised in the past two months. Currently, the selection procedure is under way. Based on the terms of reference and qualifications, six candidates have been selected to commence in the application procedure. We hope to be able to announce the final candidate soon.

5. Competing Claims lunch meetings

From April onwards, lunch meetings were started in Wageningen to discuss Competing Claims topics. Thus far, two lunch meetings have taken place:

- 3 April 2006, by Martin van Ittersum about multiscale modeling
- 1 May 2006 by Jessica Milgroom about "Orientation period of two months in Mozambique". This meeting was also used to discuss some methodology to be used and questions to be answered during the planned joint fact finding by CC- PhD students end of this year. Cees Lewis and Annemarie van Paassen work on the methodology from the social science perspective (including other CC staff)

Next lunch meeting will take place 12th of June in Wageningen: topic: joint fact finding from a biophysical perspective. Prepared by Eric Smaling and some other CC involved staff.

6. Announcements

- *ALARPM 7th and PAR 11th World congress: Participatory research, Standards and Ethics.*

The Congress will be held in Groningen, the Netherlands, on 21-24 August 2006. Participatory action research and learning processes enable participants to improve the impact of services and programs in education, health care, urban and regional development, business, agriculture, and many other spheres of social life. Jessica Milgroom, one of the CC program PhD students organises a workshop in this conference and can be contacted about it (jessica.milgroom@wur.nl) Karen Eilers, one of CC involved staff, will also participate in the conference. For more information and subscription see www.wcar2006.nl

- *Ceres Summerschool: Technocracy & Development, 26-28 June.*

The CERES Summer School is an annual event where junior and senior members gather for exchange and debate, meet other (inter) national researchers and discuss work in progress. This year's discussions focus on whether global governance, which heavily rests upon international experts and scientific advice for policy-making, is the answer to fundamental questions of democratic politics. For more information, see: <http://www.ceres.wur.nl/index2.htm>

- *MAAAP: Market Access for Africa's Agricultural Products, Stellenbosch, S-Africa 11-13 October*

Find details on the conference and submission form on: www.agriacademy.co.za

- *Earth System Science Partnership conference, Beijing, China, 9-12 November 2006*

The conference connects global climate change, biodiversity policies and natural resource management policies to human responses. Many interesting sessions relevant for our competing claims programme. See: http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/CallPapers_index.html

7. Presentations and meetings

- The Competing Claims programme and approach were presented by Maja Slingerland on IFSA (International Farming System Association) conference held in Wageningen 7-11 May 2006

- On the 23rd of June there will be a meeting on the Wageningen University INREF Programme (which CC is part of). Aim of the afternoon is to exchange knowledge and experience on how the programme operates, what lessons are to be learnt and how things might be altered. The afternoon will consist of a few presentations and workshop sessions in which participants of the INREF-I programme will share their experiences. Please register with Pieter.Windmeijer@wur.nl

8. Competing Claims Flyer

A flyer on the Competing Claims Programme is being produced and will be distributed soon.

9. NUFFIC Tenders

- Competing Claims participated in a tender from NUFFIC (fund to support higher education) to support the ARC (Agricultural Research Council, South Africa). The tender was awarded to the Wageningen consortium and Ken Giller has already participated in one of the activities with ARC. We aim for synergy between this programme and CC.

- Competing claims participated in a tender from NUFFIC for Zimbabwe with CIFOR. This tender was also awarded to the Wageningen consortium and we will aim for synergy with the CC programme, especially in the training component.

10. Competing Claims portal

As you might know CC has a portal. On the portal the CC team members can communicate with each other, share information and archive a number of relevant documents and links. This portal is currently only accessible to people who have an account at Wageningen University or who have been given access. The intention is to supply all participants of the programme access to the portal. However, since accessibility to the portal from Africa appears to give problems we are investigating other alternatives through which information and news can be exchanged. The URL is: <https://portal.wur.nl/sites/CompetingClaims/default.aspx>

CC members who do not have a password to get onto the portal and would like to do so in this phase can contact Claudius.vandevijver@wur.nl

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