This needs to be done on both a small and a large scale — indeed, to the extent that proves possible, globally.

There is wide recognition that the issues involved cannot be treated within a national framework, and so the Association is developing a European network that will be committed to the above aims. It does not duplicate the role of existing organizations, such as the International Solar Energy Society, as it seeks to unite political and economic strategies with the promotion of technical advances. The EuroSolar programme incorporates broad problems of Third World debt and the threatened global climate crisis.

EuroSolar represents an opportunity to introduce solar energy into our economic structures. The dynamism, pragmatism, and vision, of the EuroSolar programme, can provide new momentum for much-improved use of solar energy in our complex socio-economic and political framework.

The media have at last started to give wide coverage to the alarm of scientists regarding the degradation of our environment. What we need now is a plan for remedial action to counter such scourges as atmospheric pollution, and there is a genuine possibility for EuroSolar to mobilize a consensus for such a plan of action, which so far lacks clear formulation.

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International Association for the Study of Common Property

This group began in 1983 as a US National Academy of Sciences Steering Committee on Common Property Resource Management. After the conclusion of the Committee's allotted task in 1987, members continued as an interdisciplinary, interuniversity working group of scholars interested in common property issues, networking with others of similar interests. Through the widely distributed newsletter, *Common Property Resource Digest*, the network membership had reached 4,000 individuals and institutions by the summer of 1990.

The surge of interest in common property comes at a time when alternative approaches are being sought, everywhere in the world, to make sustainability properly operational. All too often, it is assumed that users of common property, if left to their own devices, will overexploit those resources, and that users are incapable of cooperation or of collective action even towards their own mutual benefit. But many recent studies show that this is not necessarily so. Communal property systems do exist, and community-based resource management often shows promise as a basis for sustainable development, if supported or revived.

An institutional design that incorporates the wisdom and the needs of local people, and safeguards for them a share of the proceeds of sound resource-use, can attract their cooperation as willing protectors and responsible managers of the resource. This view contrasts with the conventional top-down, elitist, central government approaches to resource management, and recognizes a diversity of solutions, including those involving responsibility-sharing between governments and local communities. In view of the importance of this task for the future of the world's resources, and in view of the interest for a systematic, interdisciplinary approach (as indicated by network membership), the founding members of the Association met in early summer 1989 at Duke University.

The International Association for the Study of Common Property is devoted to understanding and improving the management of environmental resources that are held or used collectively by communities, in both developing and developed countries. The Association's goals are to encourage exchange of knowledge across diverse disciplines, areas, and resource types; to foster mutual exchange of scholarship and practical experience; and to promote institutional design that is appropriate to sustainable development.

The Association represents an interdisciplinary membership (including anthropology, sociology, history, political science, planning, public policy, geography, agricultural and resource economics, applied ecology and resource management, environmental studies, and human ecology), area specializations all over the world, and various resource sectors — including forestry, fisheries, and wildlife, grazing lands, and water. Members are scholars, government officials, development consultants, and resource managers — all with a shared interest in understanding common property resources in order to avert 'tragedies of the commons'.

Dues are US $20 for members whose annual incomes exceed US $15,000 per year, and US $5 for those with annual incomes under US $15,000. Members receive the *Common Property Resource Digest* without charge, and also news of Association activities and meetings. Members of the Association are also eligible to apply for travel funds to subsidize the cost of attending the annual meeting; these funds are intended to encourage international participation and will be awarded on the basis of need. For membership, please write to Mr Edward Lotterman, IASCP Secretary-Treasurer, *Common Property Resource Digest*, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, 1994 Buford Avenue, St Paul, Minnesota 55108, USA.

The International Association for the Study of Common Property will hold its first annual meeting during 27–30 September 1990, at Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina, USA. The theme of the conference will be 'Designing Sustainability on the Commons', and proposals for individual papers and entire panels are invited. At this first meeting, panels that combine disciplines, resource types, and/or geographic areas, and that will allow for considerable discussion between panellists and audience, are particularly encouraged. To inquire about the Association's first annual meeting, please write to Dr Margaret McKean, IASCP Program Chair, Department of Political Science, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706, USA.

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