

CAP NEWS

Issue 11 July 2004

Special Conference Issue

KL - CAP's biggest ever meeting

The CAP conference and business meeting in Malaysia 3-7 July promises to be the biggest and best yet. The famous hospitality and organisation skills of the hosts, the Malaysian Institute of Planners, will guarantee that this will be a friendly and exciting event. They have been assisted by colleagues from the Singapore Institute of Planners.

The conference on "Place Making and Sustainable Communities in Urban Development" will explore some of the key themes affecting many Commonwealth countries today. These include:

- Urban poverty and affordable housing;
- Place-making and community participation;
- Solutions towards sustainable development;
- Heritage and culture.

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CONFERENCE PREVIEW

CAP is honoured that the 2004 conference will be officially opened by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi.

We are grateful to the other dignitaries and organisations who are supporting the event. The welcome address will be given by Dato' Haji Abd.Mutallib bin Jelani, who is the Director General of the Federal Department of Town and Country Planning for Peninsular Malaysia, who has also been the Chairman of the Organising Committee.

One of the highlights is certain to be the keynote address from the Honourable Dato' Seri Ong Ka Ting, Malaysia's Minister of Housing and Local Government, whose theme will be "Global and Local – The Malaysian Response to the Urban Challenge." The Ministry now has special responsibilities for urban poverty.

Another theme that CAP has stressed is community participation and the role of civil society. Again the conference will have a distinguished speaker to open up discussions on this topic. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Azizan Zainul Abidin, who is President of the Putrajaya Corporation and Chairman of PETRONAS, Malaysia's biggest company, will do this.

Putrajaya is an important focus for the conference. It is the new administrative centre for the Federal Government. It has been designed to be a 'high tech' 21st century settlement, with environmental considerations to the fore. One third of the

new city's land area is planned to be parks, lakes and wetlands. It is a tourist attraction, with a 650 hectare artificially created lake in the middle of the city, but also a business hub. A study visit to Putrajaya opens the conference. Putrajaya is in the famous Multimedia Super Corridor, a global example of strategic infrastructure-led planning.

There are an interesting range of papers and workshops. As ever with a CAP event, the diversity of experiences provided by speakers from so many different countries will ensure that this is a rich learning experience.

There will be presentations from the Commonwealth Caribbean and from East Africa, from Bangladesh and the UK. There will be delegates here from Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Australia, Uganda and Pakistan – to mention just some of them. The Singapore Institute of Planners is one of the organisers. The conference has even drawn people from beyond the Commonwealth – such as our old and sadly missed friends from Hong Kong, as well as delegates from South Korea and from Cambodia. By being together, sharing ideas and friendship, we put into practice the Commonwealth principles of unity in diversity and partnership between governments and civil society.

CAP expresses its grateful thanks to all those who have made this outstanding event possible. These include the Ministry of Tourism, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, the Putrajaya Corporation, Projek Lebuhraja Utara Selatan, the Malaysian Board of Town Planners, the Prime Minister's Department, as well as the Commonwealth Foundation. A full report on the Conference will appear in CAP News 12, which we hope to have out in October.

President's Piece

Cliff Hague

Planners across the Commonwealth can learn from what has been achieved in Malaysia, the venue for our 2004 conference and business meeting. This is a country that has made great strides. The leap from an economy based on primary production and export of raw materials to an information economy has happened very quickly. The 'industrialisation phase' in between, which took Britain about 200 years, seems to have been compressed into little more than a generation!

A key lesson from Malaysia is the potency of infrastructure in generating and locating development. In many other countries development happens and then infrastructure follows. The trick is to do it the other way round. Regional and strategic planning is notoriously difficult. There is always a risk of an 'implementation gap', with grand plans gathering dust because they were unrealistic. While the planners admire their plans, nobody else quite shares the same enthusiasm! That means that plans need to be made through a process of close consultation and co-ordination with the major providers of infrastructure.

Transport infrastructure always shapes city development. We all know that land use affects transport and transport affects land use. However, in many countries transport is the responsibility of a different Ministry than the Ministry responsible for planning. We also know that transport is a key influence on environmental sustainability.

Here in Kuala Lumpur there is a state of the art light rail transit system. There is

also an 8.6km monorail that provides a 2-5 minute peak time service round its elevated inner city route. However, as in most cities, it is the buses that provide the cheapest and probably most important means of getting around. The problem here is reliability. Buses get clogged up with the cars and so cannot keep to time.

It could be that there are lessons here from other Commonwealth countries. Bus lanes work, provided they are enforced. They speed bus times, but even more importantly, they increase the reliability and so also the comfort of the bus journey. That wins buses more passengers.

Despite a substantial road building programme, the traffic here is bad. Motorcyclists weave their way through – or sometimes into – lines of cars jammed at intersections. This does not imply that road building is futile, but it does suggest that it cannot be the only solution to problems of urban movement.

Pedestrians are still too often overlooked. Many parts of the Commonwealth have climatic extremes, that make walking a hard choice. The poor often do not have a choice. One part of pro-poor planning is to put pedestrians at the centre, not at the edge of thinking and designing. Again there are lots of good practices. We need to share ideas more effectively.

Finally, I must apologise for the delay in getting this issue of CAP News out. The problem was sheer pressure on the time of the editors from other work. CAP still relies on volunteers and spare time has been a scarce commodity recently. We aim to do better next time.

NEWS

Nigerians rejoin CAP

We are delighted to report that the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners has rejoined CAP. They have been out of membership for many years. CAP has been weakened by their absence.

The decision to rejoin represents a major boost for CAP. We have struggled to have members and active supporters in West Africa. The Nigerians are much the largest grouping of planners in that part of Africa. Their return gives us an opportunity to try to reach out to other smaller bodies in West Africa and to grow a regional network there.

A delegation from Nigeria's Ministry responsible for planning is attending CAP's KL conference. We hope to have further news from Nigeria in the next issue.

Namibians in too

CAP has also welcomed the Namibia Council of Town and Regional Planners into full membership. This again is excellent news. Our friends in Namibia have had a close relation to CAP for about 3 years, but as in many Commonwealth countries, there are few planners there and huge challenges to be overcome.

CAP encourages as many countries as possible to join (for information contact annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk). In countries where there are very few planners, the CAP 'family' can provide badly-needed support and contacts. The new Executive will work on this, after

they are elected in the Business meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Jamaicans debate role of planning

If the status of planning is to be uplifted, then planners need to work in a more strategic and integrated manner. This was a view that emerged from a lively and well attended meeting of the Jamaica Institute of Planners held in Kingston in mid-June.

CAP President Cliff Hague said that the colonial legacy in terms of planning was holding planning back in many Commonwealth countries. British planning at the height of imperialism had been a local and restrictive practice, focused on land use management and with strong anti-urban presumptions. The result was that too often 'scare human resources – trained planners - are being used in a vain attempt to enforce an outdated masterplan.'

He said that in England the government is now actively seeking to 'change the culture' of the planning profession. It wants planning to be more strategic and visionary, more integrated with social policies, more responsive to signals from land and property markets, and to be responsive to the full range of needs from the diverse groups that make up England today.

Franklin MacDonald, who until recently was the head of the planning service in Jamaica's National Environmental Protection Agency, made similar points from the local perspective. He stressed that the higher status to which Jamaica's planners aspire will only come when other stakeholders are convinced that planning adds value.

The high visibility that planning had enjoyed in the 1950s and 1960s had been when it offered visions of progress backed by governments who were able to deliver on infrastructure and development. Conditions are different now, and planning needs to change. Too much practice is about rigid zoning of land, in a society where informality and family land are the norms. Planners look back to the old plan; not forward to the future through a new plan.

Major developments in Jamaica in the past decade have not been led by plans. Rather planners were too often left in a reactionary position – opposing development that could bring wealth and jobs. Planners' mind-set needs to shift from 'orderly development' to 'contributing to sustainable development and avoiding future costs'.

While there was not unanimity about the way ahead, there was an overwhelming desire amongst the 35 or so at the meeting for planners to play a more valued role. To achieve that planners need to be creative, make plans, be responsive to community inputs and deliver integrated strategies for growth.

CAP Women in Planning Network

Olusola Olafemi has indicated that she can no longer continue in her role as the Co-ordinator of CAP's Women in Planning Network. She has moved jobs and countries, and is now based in Canada. A replacement will be announced in our next issue. Thanks and best wishes go to Sola.

International Development Network formed

A new network for planners interested in international development issues was launched at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Annual Planning Convention on 24 June. CAP was represented at the launch by its Vice-President for Europe, John Anderson.

The aims of the new network are to:

- Operate as a network of individuals keen to work together to develop and maintain members' interest and level of professional competence in international issues, discussing problems of international development, finding solutions and identifying opportunities.
- Provide support and encouragement to members and to advance examples of good practice.
- Provide a mechanism to contribute to the RTPI's advice to government and other bodies on international development.
- Raise the profile and status of planners and planning and promote relevant interests.
- Develop a programme of research particularly on international issues.
- Enhance these issues particularly in Third World Countries.

- Facilitate the transfer of knowledge and resources between developed and developing countries concerning international planning and development.
- Be fully integrated into the wider RTPI structure.

All RTPI members who support these aims are welcome to join the IDN. There is no fee. There is scope also for some non-RTPI members to join, if they belong to organisations who are members of CAP. Contact Judith Eversley on international@rtpi.org.uk.

IDN members will receive regular e-mail bulletins. The idea is to promote electronic discussions on the e-mail system.

The first topic being addressed is the World Urban Forum to be held in Vancouver in 2006. This is being organised by the Canadian Institute of Planners who are the lead planners for the event. A brief pre-view was given to those at the launch by Paul Farmer, Executive Director of the American Planning Association. In this he recognised the groundwork already done between the Canadian Institute of Planning, CAP, the RTPI and the APA in preparation for Vancouver 2006.

CAP sees the IDN as complementing its own efforts to raise the profile of international development issues amongst professional planners. We look forward to effective collaboration.

CAP will be at World Urban Forum 2004

The Second World Urban Forum will be held in Barcelona on 13-17 September. This is a key biennial United Nations event. The 2006 one will be in Vancouver, and CAP and the Canadian Institute of Planners are already actively preparing for it. Through the Forum the global community will come together to address the multiple challenges of urbanisation.

The theme of this year's Forum in Barcelona is "Cities: Crossroads of cultures, inclusiveness and integration?" This recognises in particular the problems faced particularly by ethnic minorities and the poor.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in prefacing the Forum, said "Rapid urbanization is fast becoming one of the major challenges facing the international community. In a world beset by conflict and intolerance, the theme of the second World Urban Forum could not be more relevant. It is critical that the world's cities, now home to a majority of the world's population, are safe places where all people can benefit from urban development."

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN Habitat, added "Our greatest cities create joy through diversity. They are meeting places for cultures." However, she also highlighted the prejudice and violence that can arise when "citizens come face to face with their own fears and ignorance."

The Forum is an informal gathering that brings together governments, NGOs and professionals. UN-Habitat describes it as a

“think tank”. Nearly 3000 delegates are expected in Barcelona.

Cliff Hague, as President of CAP, has been invited to speak in the session on “Urban Planning Revisited”, and to provide an article on that theme for “Habitat Debate”, UN-Habitat’s Quarterly Newsletter. CAP Americas’ Vice-President, Ron Shishido, will also be there with a team developing the networks for WUF3 in Vancouver in 2006. This is further evidence of CAP’s growing profile in the international arena. For more details of the Forum go to www.unhabitat.org

Pacific Update

CAP News 10 reported on CAP’s Pacific Form meeting last November. The Forum was attended by representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The CAP President Prof Cliff Hague and Prof Jon Talbot attended from UK, and Mr Patrick Déoux the Past President of the Canadian Institute of Planners. Several Australian consultants and academics provide invaluable insights into the Pacific situation. AusAID and corporate sponsors generously donated \$50,000 towards the expenses.

The Forum established a Pacific Network of Planners (PNOP) to facilitate professional and technical information exchange. The first PNOP newsletter was published in June 2004. However, the Pacific planning delegates have not been actively involved in the network to date and a questionnaire was included in the newsletter to re-determine any planning assistance needs.

The CAP secretariat and PNOP, through Mr Bob Naiker, were represented at the Pacific Regional Workshop on Urban

Development in Fiji on 1-4 December 2003, to develop a Pacific Urban Agenda. He presented the Declaration prepared by the CAP Forum, which was well received. A number of participants spoke in support of the formation of PNOP and looked forward to co-operation amongst planners, especially in information exchange and training to improve professional skills in rapidly changing situations.

The Pacific Urban Agenda has since been endorsed by the United Nation’s Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and its Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at the Commission’s 60th session held in Shanghai, China in April 2004.

It is hoped that with this endorsement of the Pacific Special Body by the ESCAP Commission, there will be a more concerted and coordinated effort to address urban management concerns in the Pacific, not just on the part of ESCAP but for other aid donors in the region. This is an important foundation, on which the CAP can become involved as a partner with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, based in Samoa, to realise the vision of the 2003 CAP Forum.

The Queensland Division is actively coordinating with Mr Gary Shiels, the President of the Planning Institute of Australia’s International Division to present a submission to the National Council in the second half of 2004 on the desirability of the PIA national body rejoining CAP. Prof Hague discussed this matter with Mr Shiels at the 2003 Forum and along with Roger Brewster, published a statement in the December issue of the *Australian Planner Journal*.

ARTICLES

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council Pre- CHOGM Conference, Abuja, Nigeria *Professor Eleanor Morris*

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) held a strong pre-Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Abuja, Nigeria from 1-3 December 2003, in association with NEPAD (New Programme for Africa's Development). BEPIC (Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth, which includes CAP), SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment – the environmental committee of the International Council for Science Union (ICSU) and CASLE (Commonwealth Association for Surveying and Land Economy).

The Conference was greatly honoured to be attended by many important members of the Nigerian and Kenyan Governments, including the Speaker of the Nigerian House of Representatives, the Hon. Alhaji Arminu Bello Masuri; the Hon Amos Kimunya, Minister for Lands and Settlements, Kenya and the Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on NEPAD, Chief (Mrs) Chinyere Asika. NEPAD is the newest joint United Nations and African effort to encourage good governance and development in Africa.

The meetings on the Habitat Agenda, focused on tenure, land registration and sustainable indicators. ComHabitat, the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements, assists Commonwealth countries in implementing the Habitat Agenda through collaborative approaches with the public, private and NGO sectors. In Nairobi, 1999, ComHabitat was constituted as a partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, CHEC, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Department for International Development (DFID) and Homeless International. The main focus of ComHabitat is to demonstrate progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every Commonwealth country by 2015.

Winston Cox, Deputy-Director Commonwealth Secretariat, stated in his talk on “the improvement of human settlements with NGO's”, the goals of ComHabitat agree with the Millennium Development Goal of trying to achieve significant improvement in the lives of the world's 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. Winston Cox also congratulated Zena Daysh, Executive Vice-Chair of CHEC, on her Habitat Scroll of Honour award (reported in our last issue) which recognised her role in establishing ComHabitat and promoting awareness of the Habitat Agenda throughout the Commonwealth.

The land registration situation in Nigeria was stated very clearly by the Hon. Levi Oguike, founder of CHEC-Nigeria. Land information issues in Nigeria are both complex and diverse. Nigeria, because of decades of political turmoil, has had a

large amount of institutional fragmentation. It began with 4 regions at independence from the British in 1960, went through the Biafran/Nigeria Civil War and reconstituted itself with a new Federal Capital City in 1977. The 100 million people of Nigeria presently have 36 States and 774 Local Government areas and the Federal Capital Abuja region. This degree of fragmentation has exacerbated the unprecedented rural-urban migration and rapid urbanisation for the 36 new Capitals as well as Abuja.

An important paper was given by Dr. C.L. Odimuko, President Nigerian Institute of Town Planners on the critical need for Land Information Systems (LIS) and Digitalized Land Registers. Either land is not registered or it is registered on brown bits of paper by many owners! The Lagos State Government's Urban and Regional Planning Board started the preparatory process for the establishment of Land Information Systems for Lagos State only in 2001. By 2003 a standard LIS studio was giving some services to the Town Planners in the area of plan preparation and development control. Yet LIS only covers 3 planning districts in Lagos and does not cover the entire metropolitan area.

Abuja, the new Federal Capital City, as a planned city, should have been able to avoid severe problems of tenure and land registration. The Master Plan of Abuja, shows the butterfly plan where the body of the butterfly is handsomely laid out with a grand Mall lined with government buildings headed by the National Assembly Building (Parliament), the Supreme Court and the President's Palace, in a manner similar to the Mall and the Capitol in Washington D.C. In contrast, the wings of the butterfly plan are divided

into sectors and were intended to house 1.5 million people by 2001. Instead there are 6 million people, including 2 million squatters! The original American planners dramatically failed to forecast the exploding population.

In the Hon. Oguike's analysis, Abuja was designed without provision for the indigenous population's native settlements. The original population was to be housed elsewhere. This did not happen and even though satellite towns were created in the region, the squatters continued to come to Abuja.

The depopulation of the rural areas and the attraction of a better economic life in the city have caused rapid population increases causing unexpected pressure on facilities designed for 1.5 million people, but now catering for 6 million. Abuja critically needs the technical help of land information systems; geographical information systems to register tenure, track urban growth, assess the impact of growth and manage future development.

The Hon. Mike Ogar, Vice-President, Nigerian Institute of Town Planners also noted that the plan for the Federal Capital of Abuja has been only partially implemented 25 years since its creation and lately been subject to abuses, not only by squatter settlements but through the lack of land registration. Many other problems were noted. These include declining financial resources, the need for environmental soundness and the need for acceptable housing and transportation standards across the social classes.

According to Ogar, the immediate need is for a land information system for the whole of Nigeria, with its 100 million people, that will be self-sustaining in the

long term, even though the initial investment comes from the government. There is also the need for the government to give autonomy and adequate funding to a national mapping agency, and to provide protection of the integrity of the land information, as corruption is a serious problem.

The Conference ended with the agreed submission of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council to the High Level Group for the Committee of the Whole of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Five linked programmes of action were proposed and agreed, including an examination of the scientific understanding of peri-urban areas and the rigorous development of the management of peri-urban areas.

The greatest emphasis was placed on action on the establishment of a National Land Information System and Digitalized Register to secure good governance and sustainable human settlements. As CHEC's Chairman, Prof Ian Douglas stated "National topographic data needs to be linked to the data held by other public sector organisations to bring spatial information to more people than ever before, increasing its use and maximising the benefit for as many people as possible".

Helping to establish LIS/GIS for Nigeria would be a major achievement in the new Millennium and a successful outcome of the NEPAD/CHEC/BEPIC/CASLE Pre-CHOGM Conference.

Professor Morris, PhD, MRTPI, MAICP, is Emerita Professor, Edinburgh University, and a Member of the CHEC Board of Governors.

THE UK NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM

John Anderson

The National Planning Form is an advisory body with a wide-ranging membership from most organisations both private and public, amateur and professional, connected with the British Planning System. It is administered by the Local Government Association. I was invited to join, representing CAP.

There are four task groups each researching a theme. For the current year these are

- A. Cultural Change
- B. Community Engagement
- C. Performance and Delivery
- D. Positive Planning

CAP is a member of group C, which is chaired by Liz Peace from the British Property Federation. We are particularly interested in any working experience of planning at a Regional Level, something that is new in England, but will become increasingly important with the advent of the new Planning and Property Act, which has just received Royal Assent.

The new Act was featured in a presentation by Mike Ash from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister at our last meeting. It is to be implemented in stages accompanied by a set of newly written Planning Policy Statements the successors to Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG's), which set the parameters of central government policy for local government to follow.

We also had a presentation by CABA (The Commission for the Built Environment). This was highly critical of the height control in London, which is designed to keep certain views of St Paul's Cathedral. The result, particularly along the Thames riverside, has been to produce a monotonous level table with every flat roof built to the same height, exactly up to the policy limit. There is in effect no roofscape.

The Forum also monitors performance in the Control of Development. Certain members of the RTPI have a preferred title which I also like calling it Development Management. Planning is more than just controlling development; planners should be innovators, interestingly something which happens much more in Commonwealth Countries than in the UK.

Unfortunately also, the UK Government has linked the financial assistance to Local Authorities (the Planning Development Grant) with certain performance criteria. This is not always the best way to deliver good planning, as decision times become the paramount objective, and items such as negotiated amendments, suffer in the over-riding goal of processing every application to a set timetable in order to qualify for the maximum governmental grant.

In my experience Commonwealth Planners, partly because of necessity, take a much broader view and get involved much more with innovative ideas. Again I would ask readers to send me any examples of action planning which result in happenings on the ground rather than policies, which can be too long in their controlled implementation.

CAP can make a useful contribution to the Forum, and if any member is in London on the appropriate date I can organise their attendance at future meetings. They will find it interesting, including the different views expressed. It is something which other countries may wish to emulate. Future dates will feature on the CAP website.

The Forum appears to be producing ideas to add value to the knowledge of working the planning system, although I have found some odd customs from certain planning authorities, which do not assist good planning. An example is the abandonment of any pre-application meetings by one authority to 'save staff time'. Hopefully when we receive the results of the current research being carried out by group C on 'The Conditions for Creative Planning' some authorities may change their management approach.

A priority should be to get away from just using the planning system as a control procedure. We have to live with the results. People want, and are entitled to, a carefully considered built and landscaped environment.

John Anderson is CAP's Vice-President (Europe) and Secretary General. He is a practising planning consultant in England. He can be contacted at japlan@nascr.net and hopes to hear from you if you have answers to the questions he posed.

WHOSE VALUES?

Thinking about value in managing heritage

Kate Clark

Heritage might seem to be a relatively minor issue for planners, who are often more concerned with the eternal tug of war between bigger social, economic and environmental concerns. But a recent project which compares approaches to managing value at heritage sites in Australia, Canada, the US and Britain, could have some interesting lessons for wider planning practice.

The Getty Conservation Institute works internationally to advance conservation and to enhance and encourage the preservation and understanding of the visual arts in all their dimensions – objects, collections, architecture and sites. As part of their work on thinking about conservation they have been looking at ideas of value - why heritage places matter, what matters about them. One strand of that work has been a project to compare practice in four different countries.

Conservation management plans

Conservation has traditionally focussed on the importance of good practice in materials and techniques – too many historic buildings or sites have been damaged in the long term by, for example, the use of hard cement where softer or traditional lime mortars are more appropriate. However, looking after a

place and handing it on to future generations requires more than caring for its fabric. Historic places – like any place – need to be managed if they are to survive. Conservation management involves all of the things that planners recognise from thinking about places – appropriate uses, involving people, good quality design, controlled interventions, thinking about wider social and economic issues. In order to address these wider issues, heritage specialists have begun to make greater use of planning skills through conservation management plans. But – not surprisingly – we have found that good planning is perhaps more difficult than we had thought!

Value and significance

Often people think of heritage as old monuments or castles. Yet heritage can be more than that – railways, landscapes, archaeology, historic towns are all part of the heritage. Indeed, heritage is all around us, in places that are familiar or hold memories, our local church or village centre for example. Or it may be in things we want to remember – Auschwitz, for example, is now a World Heritage Site, as is Robben Island in South Africa where Nelson Mandela and his colleagues were held. The common idea that runs through heritage is that these are things that hold meaning or value for us, that we might want to keep not only for ourselves but for future generations.

The problem with value is that different people value places in different ways. If you are trying to manage a heritage site, this can make things quite difficult.

The GCI Values project

In order to find out more about how heritage managers were dealing with different values, the GCI project set out to identify four heritage sites where there had been an element of controversy over how they should be managed. The project was interested in finding out how different values were identified, and how they were taken into account in decision-making.

The sites were:

Chaco Canyon, South West USA – here a site originally protected because of its important archaeological remains, is also a highly important place to two different Native American groups. In addition, it has become a focus for modern ideas about new age spiritualism. Heritage managers have had to be very sensitive to community issues rather than simply focussing on the archaeology.

Grosse Ile, Canada – this site was a quarantine station for immigrants to Canada. Originally it was interpreted as a place that told the whole history of immigration into Canada. However it emerged during public controversy that the Irish community felt that the site had particular resonance for them, in terms of the story of the Irish emigration following the famine.

Port Arthur, Australia - this convict prison on the island of Tasmania is a site that has always symbolised Australia's difficult origins. Already a site which can be intensely emotional for people, it became more so following a tragedy which occurred at the site when a number of visitors and staff were shot by a local gunman. Site managers had to work closely with the community in order to

decide how best to commemorate the lives of those who died.

Hadrian's Wall, England – the remains of this Roman fortification run across the north of England. It is an example of a heritage site which is largely in private ownership, and where preservation depends largely on local farmers or landowners seeing the benefits to the area of caring for the wall. Heritage managers have had to work very closely with local communities, recognising their concerns and finding new ways of working in partnership.

In each case, the sites had management plans which had had to evolve to recognise that the values or views of experts were not always ones shared by the communities. Yet without the support of local communities, long term heritage preservation is almost impossible.

The lessons from the study is that heritage specialists need to move towards working more closely with communities, who often feel very strongly about sites in their area. This can be controversial, and many specialists are worried that this could put heritage at risk. However, well-managed heritage places often bring important benefits to communities in terms of tourism, jobs, and better quality places. Furthermore, experience shows that communities often have considerable expertise about, and interest in, their local heritage.

The concept of significance or value that underpins thinking about heritage sites has much wider relevance. Almost all places have a value – and if planning is about 'critical thinking about space and place as the basis for action or intervention' – it would seem that understanding how

people value (or do not value) places now – could be an important first step!

The reports on the GCI case studies can be found on the GCI web site at www.getty.edu and the final publication is due out soon.

Kate Clark works for English Heritage.

RESEARCH NOTES

This new feature in CAP News gives young researchers at Commonwealth universities a chance to tell our readers about their work.

Saima Kalwar is based at the Mehran Institute of Technology at Jomsuro in Sindh, Pakistan. She is doing research for an M.Phil thesis. Her topic is “Developing sustainable conservation of Manchar Wetlands”.

Sindh’s wetlands, and their rich biological resources, are threatened by over-exploitation, habitat destruction and polluted environments. The main causes underlying degradation of wetlands range from ineffective management and poor co-ordination in management strategies to insufficient stakeholder participation.

Manchar lake is the largest freshwater lake in Asia. Its water quality has been spoiled due to discharge of agricultural waste and non-supply of fresh water. This has seriously depleted the freshwater aquaculture.

Fish production was 15,000 to 20,000 metric tons per year between 1970 and 1980. Between 2000 and 2002 it only reached 1000 to 1200 metric tons per

year, according to data from the Fisheries Department in 2003.

This has had social and economic impacts. The fishermen were once relatively prosperous. They enjoyed rich fish catches, and stable incomes that were supplemented from boat building. The catastrophic decline in fish stocks has left these men and their families in poverty.

Both the land adjoining the lake, and economic activities on that land, have also suffered. Wheat, maize and millet crops used to be planted on the rich soils of the lake sides, after the floodwater had receded and was irrigating some 20,000 to 25,000 acres of land. Toxins in the waste water mean such activities are no longer possible.

Very special and rare bird species migrate to this lake from Siberia for the winter. The lake has become a paradise for hunters, whereas if it had been developed as a tourist asset, more sustainable forms of enjoying the birds could have been put in place.

Conservation of natural resources – agriculture, fish and birds – is needed. The aim should be to generate local and regional job opportunities, but also create a recreational site with a provincial and even national catchment.

My research hopes to make a contribution to the proper utilisation of the existing and potential physical and socio-economic resources of the lake, along with strategies for the protection and wise use of the wetlands of Sindh.

Through research I want to develop and show how to implement a conservation policy and sustainable management

strategies. The aim should be to protect the ecosystem of the wetland, but also to assure high social and economic benefits for people. There are stakeholders at very different levels – from isolated village communities to global industries.

I hope that my research will introduce a systematic development procedure for the optimum utilisation of the natural resources of this wetland. Examples would be producing fish, rice, cranberries, medicinal materials, and grasses and reeds for making mats and baskets and for thatching houses.

Such an approach could help to reduce rural-urban migration, by providing jobs in the region of the lake. It would also provide a flow of investment from urban populations into the rural area through tourism. By restoring natural landscapes and ecosystems, developing eco-tourism, and boosting cottage industries such an approach would make a contribution to sustainable development.

Saima Kalwar can be contacted at saimakalwar@hotmail.com. The course at Jamsuro is very short of planning text books. If you have any you no longer need, please contact her and she will advise you where to post them to.

We aim to get the next issue out by the end of October.

It will include a full report on the CAP conference in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

It will also cover the World Urban Forum in Barcelona.

**We want your news and articles too!
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