

African Centre for Technology Studies

ACTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



**New
Trends
and Initiatives**

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*ACTS Executive Director,
Prof. Judi Wangalwa Wakhungu*

New Trends and Initiatives

From the Executive Director's Desk

The year 2004 will go down in the memories of ACTS and its associates as the time we embarked on the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2004 -- 2008. We therefore set in motion events and strategies that would make us realize these goals. It is for this reason that the Annual Report for 2004 is appropriately titled: *New Trends and Initiatives*.

This brief report provides you with an overview of the new partnerships and initiatives that we have developed. We are, for example, collaborating with the World Bank, UNEP, FAO, and UNESCO in an assessment that aims to discern new ways of improving the agricultural knowledge science and technology (AKST) that will enable the world to fight the scourge of hunger and poverty in the next 50 years. The project -- International Assessment of Agricultural Science & Technology for Development (IAASTD) -- aims to bring an objective view of the long-term challenges facing world agriculture and to assess how the development and appropriate use of AKST, past experiences, and current knowledge, can be brought to bear on reducing hunger and poverty, improving livelihoods and health, increasing incomes, and facilitating equitable, environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable development.

It is the year in which we resolved to move away from purely policy research and embraced the notion of formalizing our science, and technology, policy training portfolio into a Science and Technology Policy Training Institute. The institute is set to provide training up to postgraduate degree level to African policy makers, civil servants and others in the field of science and technology policy. Strategic partnerships with various universities, including but not limited to University of Nairobi, Penn State, Strathclyde, and Harvard are being explored.

A significant milestone and achievement for the Centre in the policy research arena, is the approval by the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers of the Regional Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines. ACTS not only provided the intellectual leadership for this exercise, but coordinated the development of the guidelines, as well. We are proud to have participated in such a noble endeavour.

We are now focused on making 2005 an even better year for ACTS as we consolidate our past achievement and plan for the future. I would like to thank our development partners for assisting us variously to achieve our goals. Thanks are also due to the ACTS Governing Council for the invaluable guidance they have afforded the Centre. I would also like to acknowledge the ACTS staff and our Associates for their hard work and support as we strive to attain our goals.

Prof. Judi Wakhungu
Executive Director

The African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) is a Nairobi-based international intergovernmental science, technology and environment policy think-tank that generates and disseminates new knowledge through policy analysis, advocacy and outreach. The Centre's mission is to *strengthen the capacity of African countries and institutions to harness science and technology for sustainable development*. We strive to rationalize scientific and technological information to enable African countries make effective policy choices for improved living standards. ACTS works with partners and networks including academic and research institutions, national governments, UN bodies, regional and international processes and NGOs. ACTS' research and capacity building activities are organized in five programmatic areas: Biodiversity and Environmental Governance; Energy and Water Security; Agriculture and Food Security; Human Health; and Science and Technology Literacy. Its member states are: Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Uganda and Ghana. The International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) are also founding members of ACTS.

ACTS Programmes have evolved over the years in response to shifting challenges. In 1988-1993, the Centre invested its energies and resources into demonstrating the feasibility of independent policy research on science, technology and environmental issues. These were the formative years of ACTS, which coincided with UNCED where the Centre played a key role in building the capacity of African countries to implement the provisions of the international agreements concluded at UNCED. The second phase (1994-1997) of ACTS programme development was marked with the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects on Agenda 21 and related conventions on biological diversity and climate change. In the subsequent period, 1997-2002, there was a further evolution of the programmes drawing on the foundation laid before. ACTS focused MORE on bio-safety in a regional context in the midst of the raging debate on potentials of biotechnology and its. This was designed to respond to the challenges facing a number of countries in Africa in designing laws and policies for harnessing biotechnology and managing its risks.

These programmes have evolved with national, regional and global agendas. For example, the biodiversity programme has moved from focusing on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to exploring the threats to natural habitats across international borders, the extent to which scarcity of resources induces political conflicts within or between countries, the way that intellectual property rights become controversial as a result of global economic liberalization, and the impact of giving more responsibility to local actors to conserve natural resources.

ACTS maintains contact with scholars of national, regional and international repute like the University of Strathclyde, University of Nairobi, Moi University, Penn State University, Maseno University, Harvard University, Kenyatta University and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). We maintain government links through attendance at seminars and training courses and direct contacts with individual scholars by way of consultancies and association. Besides links with the Government of Kenya, new links and collaborative arrangements have gradually emerged with many governments like Uganda, Malawi, Ghana and South Africa. The Centre has had engagements with sub-regional and regional processes such

as the East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The Centre has launched a strategy for the 2000-decade that has a new vision and mission. The vision, mission and objectives of ACTS will now reflect the Centre's response to the challenges and changing circumstances in the global fora. This is true as the Centre recognizes its responsibility to its clientele and the need to keep abreast of the changing needs and expectations of diverse clients and partners. They provide the foundation for the future work of the Centre -- a framework that embodies both continuity with the past and new commitment and strength for the future. In that respect, we envision better living standards for all in Africa through harnessing science and technology for sustainable development and set our mission as that of strengthening the capacity of African countries and institutions to harness science and technology for sustainable development. We strive to rationalize scientific and technological information now available to enable African countries make effective policy choices for improved living standards.

ACTS Objectives

The specific objectives of the Centre are to:

- undertake policy research on issues of agriculture, energy, water, biological diversity, biotechnology, international trade and intellectual property protection, and natural resources tenure and management;
- contribute to the strengthening of national capacities of African countries to participate in international policy processes, negotiate and implement international agreements such as those on trade and environment.
- monitor global trends in science and technology, public and corporate governance, and promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to Africa;
- foster exchange of information and ideas among researchers, government officials, civil society and private sector at local, national, regional and international levels to widen options for policy change; and
- provide affiliation to scholars, students and government policy-makers working on issues of science, technology and environment.



Lake Jipe from the Tanzania side of the border: notice the boat on dry land –the lake is drying up due to the unsustainable use of feeder streams waters. ACTS has provided guidelines for sustainable use of shared ecosystems like this one

ACTS has undergone a tremendous transformation in the last one-year. With the full integration of the *Strategic Plan* into its activities, the centre is transforming itself from a purely policy research organization into a hands-on research organization that strives to support policy implementation. ACTS is embarking on new trends and initiatives to fulfill this mandate.

One such indication of change is the setting up of the ACTS Institute of Science, Technology and Training Institute. The Institute is set to provide training upto postgraduate degree level to African Policy makers, civil servants, private society and others in the field of science and technology policy. The institute's aim is to build their capacities, converting intellectual capital into practical application at the grassroots level. The system of instruction will be block release with students spending some time at ACTS while still pursuing their degree courses or working for their institutions. The United States Aid Agency (USAID) supports the institute. Collaborating institutions thus far are the University of Nairobi, Penn State University of the US and other science and technology institutions of higher learning both in and out of Africa.

Another significant milestone is the completion and acceptance of the Guidelines for Regional Environment Assessment (REA) of Shared Ecosystems in East Africa. ACTS developed these guidelines with support from the Regional Economic Development Support Office (REDSO) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project has been going on since 2000 and was initiated by the EAC. The Sectoral Committee of the East African Community sitting in Kisumu, Kenya, in November 2004 accepted the guidelines. It was the decision of the committee that the "Guidelines now be incorporated in the draft Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management." ACTS is in the process of publishing these Guidelines into a book. The full guidelines will soon be posted on both the ACTS and EAC websites. It is hoped that the secretariat will translate them into Swahili, a language that is widely spoken in East Africa.

Yet another milestone for ACTS was the appointment of its executive director to co-chair a World Bank-led international agricultural assessment. Prof. Judi Wakhungu, the executive director of ACTS, was appointed co-chair of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science & Technology for Development (IAASTD). Thirty governments and 30 civil society organizations nominated the director. The other appointee is Dr. Hans Herren, the outgoing Director-General of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) based in Nairobi, Kenya.

IAASTD is an initiative of the World Bank in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), World Health Organisation (WHO), and UNESCO and other organizations. Its aim is to bring an objective view of the long-term challenges facing world agriculture and to assess how the development and appropriate use of agricultural knowledge, science and technologies (AKST), past experiences and current knowledge can be brought to bear on reducing hunger and poverty, improving livelihoods and health, increasing incomes



ACTS Executive Director, Prof. J.W. Wakhungu welcomes Nobel Laureate and Assistant Minister, Kenya, Prof. Wangare Maathai to an ACTS environmental workshop

and facilitating equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development. The two scientists will chair plenary and bureau sessions of the IAASTD with the director of the secretariat, and provide intellectual leadership for the assessment process, which will use a strongly consultative “bottom up” process that recognizes the different needs of different regions and communities.

Land Tenure and Conflict in Africa: Prevention, Mitigation and Reconstruction

The Centre, in consultation with other collaborating organisations, including the Institute for Security Studies, has been conducting research into the issue of contested rights to land and natural resources in conflict zones in Africa’s Great Lakes Region, with an emphasis on areas affected by waves of outward and inward migration in Burundi, Rwanda, and Eastern DRC. This is done under the project: “Preventing Conflict Through Improved Policies on Land Tenure, Natural Resource Rights and Migration in the Great Lakes Region: An Applied Research, Networking and Advocacy Project”. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development. Its objective is to produce applied policy research to influence ongoing processes of peace building, land reform and debates on land rights in the Great Lakes Region, particularly as they affect or are affected by displaced populations. Activities in 2004 included desk and field research, publication in multiple formats, and a regional multi-stakeholder conference to present findings to relevant government actors, international and regional organisations and civil society groups.

This project’s primary goal is to influence positively, through advocacy with relevant stakeholders, ongoing processes of land reform and debates on land rights in this region, particularly as they affect or are affected by displaced populations. This will be achieved through research, networking, advocacy and technical support for a variety of actors, including government departments, civil society groups and non-governmental organizations.

Outputs included the publication of several policy briefs. The policy briefs, one of ACTS’ main policy outreach instruments, have been distributed in both hard and soft formats. Two parallel distribution strategies were followed: general distribution based on ACTS’ mailing list on “environment and conflict”; and targeted distribution that identified key policy-makers and experts in the field. This has enabled us to influence key people such as Klaus Deininger (co-author of the World Bank’s most recent overall land policy document) who has shared the briefs with other World Bank staff working on conflict and land. Other institutions such as Global Witness, PERI, UN-Habitat, and UNHCR were contacted and responded positively on the usefulness of the policy briefs. ACTS has been part of the UN Conference on the Great Lakes and has distributed the policy briefs at meetings in Nairobi and Arusha, as well as influencing the proceedings through interventions and participation in drafting committees. The full proceedings of the workshop are also available; with distribution an on-going process.

Pan-African Programme on Land and Resource Rights (PAPLRR).

Another path blazing and continuing project in 2004 is the Pan-African Programme on Land and Resource Rights (PAPLRR). The current phase of the project commenced in September 2003 and was due to be concluded last year. Then the consolidating phase was set to start and end in September 2005. It is implemented with generous funding from the Ford Foundation. PAPLRR seeks to articulate and support innovative land tenure reforms and policies in Africa. Started in 2001, the first phase of the programme explored the feasibility and utility of creating a knowledge network to identify and articulate key issues for land reforms in Africa. The research results of the pilot phase of PAPLRR have recently been published in a book: *Securing Land Tenure in Africa: Pan African Perspectives*. The book is available at ACTS and dissemination to key people and institution is on going.

Some of the key activities carried out during the 2004 include: expanding and rationalizing the programme's steering committee; clarifying the aims and objectives of the programme and developing its medium-term strategy; developing policy engagement training modules and materials, and conducting sub-regional workshops and policy-engagement training seminars to identify and consolidate sub-regional research themes and activities.

ACTS is working with partners to lay a strong foundation for implementation of phase II of PAPLRR. During 2005, ACTS intends to review, edit, publish and disseminate policy training materials and other research products. These will be used as tools for policy outreach. ACTS will then develop and finalize a medium-term strategy for the project. All these activities will be carried out in line with ACTS' new *Strategic Plan*.



Participants at a PAPLRR Eastern Africa sub-regional workshop held in Mombasa in October, 2004. With them are Hon. Amos Kimunya, minister lands and housing (sitting 5th) and his assistant the Hon. Orwa Ojode (3rd right). ACTS' executive director, Prof. Judi Wakhungu is sitting sixth from right

The Cross Border Biodiversity Project

The Cross Border Biodiversity Project was started in 1999. It is supported by GEF funds through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The policy component of the project supports the development of laws and policies to reduce the loss of biodiversity at selected cross-border forests in East Africa. The policy component's activities were organized into two phases that neatly blended into each other. The first phase activities mainly involved policy analysis, technical back up to forest policy processes and information dissemination. The second phase mainly comprises capacity-building and information dissemination activities. Also called the implementation phase, Phase II seeks to consolidate the various lessons learnt and make them known to stakeholders in forest biodiversity conservation. These activities are carried out through well-sequenced tasks designed to link with other project components and maximize outputs. ACTS is carrying out the final activities of the project to be concluded by the end of June 2005. The remaining activities consist mainly organizing a sub-regional policy-training workshop, publishing, and widely disseminating information generated by the project activities.

Transboundary Natural Resources Management of The Shared Ecosystems Of East Africa.

Transboundary Natural Resources Management of The Shared Ecosystems of East Africa
The Transboundary Natural Resources Management (TBNRM) project is funded by the Regional Economic Development Support Office (REDSO) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). ACTS is implementing it on behalf of the East African Community (EAC). It is a 2-year project and it aims to support the EAC's efforts to develop guidelines for Regional Environmental Impact Assessment (REIA). ACTS therefore, has undertaken to develop the REIA guidelines for the conduct of EAI for shared ecosystems of the sub-region, especially the control and utilization of water hyacinth and other invasive weeds of Lake Victoria.

The project officially commenced in January 2002 after wide consultations between ACTS, USAID/REDSO and the EAC Secretariat. This paved the way for a number of critical activities and certain milestones achieved in the course of that year. Specifically, ACTS successfully identified a formidable team of experts to undertake the review studies on the status and socio-economic uses of shared ecosystems, stakeholder analysis and draft the guidelines for regional environmental impact assessment. These review studies were then commissioned at the EAC Secretariat, Arusha in August 2002. In addition, ACTS prepared and submitted the Plan of Action for the Development of Guidelines for REIA to the EAC Secretariat, Arusha, Tanzania, that was duly approved. ACTS continues to coordinate and provide overall intellectual leadership in the implementation of the project.



Lake Jipe from the Kenya side of the border: ACTS organized a visit by the media to the lake to assess and record the effects of unsustainable use of transboundary resources and advise the East African Community on guidelines for remedial action

Project objectives

The overall objective of the project initially was to strengthen capacity of the East and Southern Africa (ESA) governments and NGOs to effectively manage transboundary watersheds. Specific objectives were to:

- Establish a better understanding of the nature of national policies and their synergy or convergence in promoting the management of transboundary watersheds in ESA;
- Expand the body of knowledge and information on use of transboundary watershed and factors that cause degradation of transboundary watersheds in ESA
- Enlarge regional capacity to formulate and implement common (regional) EIA for transboundary watersheds;
- Promote “best practices” in the management of transboundary watersheds;
- Promote common procedural rights (citizens participation, access to information, and enlarged judicial authority); and
- Promote dialogue between policymakers and legislators on legal instruments for common/regional EIA for transboundary watersheds in ESA.

Consultations with the East African Community (EAC) in the early stages of the implementation process of this project broadened its focus to include all the shared ecosystems of East Africa – including watersheds, mountain, terrestrial and protected area ecosystems. Transboundary watersheds was therefore, seen as part of the wider project “The Plan of Action for the development of Guidelines for Regional Environmental Impact Assessment of Shared Ecosystems of East Africa” that ACTS has been implementing on behalf of the East African Community.

Milestones

The implementation of this project has provided insights and helped raise the level of awareness on the importance and need for transboundary natural resource management among local and regional NGOs and CBOs. It has also strengthened commitments of the EAC Partner States to identify common management principles and policies for the sustainable management of shared ecosystems of East Africa. It also built and broadened the constituency for transboundary EIA. Some of the NGOs, CBOs and initiatives consulted include Eastern African Wetland Programme (EAWP), Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Economic Research

Bureau (UDSM), Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT), Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC), East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS), East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Uganda Wildlife Society (UWS), Nature Uganda, (NU), East Africa Communities Organization for Management of Lake Victoria (ECOVIC) and Friends of Lake Victoria (OSIENALA). Other intergovernmental organizations include the World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Agroforestry Centre (WAC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Nile Basin Initiative. Furthermore, this project has helped strengthen the legitimacy and popularity of the EAC and its role in the sub-region, in addition to promoting awareness on "The Treaty Establishing the EAC" and the Community's role, commitments and initiatives on transboundary natural resource management. The review studies have helped draw the EAC's attention to the degradation of Lake Jipe at the border of Kenya and Tanzania and the problems in the Pemba Channel between Kenya and Tanzania – a complex matter engendering issues pertinent to concerns of sovereignty and its implications for cross-border fishing, trade and livelihoods. This has now found its way into the mainstream agendas of technocrats and politicians in Kenya and particularly Tanzania, the EAC's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and Committee on Natural Resources of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

A key product of the project are the Regional Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Shared Ecosystems in East Africa. The Guidelines were completed in record time and were well received and approved by the Sectoral Committee of the East African Community in its November 2004 meeting in Kisumu, Kenya. Further, the Committee decided that these guidelines should now be incorporated in the draft Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management. Meetings to do this have been scheduled in Kampala, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in January 2005. Once the Protocol is finalized, the Partner States will be required to adopt the guidelines into their national EIA regimes.

Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) Process

In August 2004, ACTS signed a Memorandum of Agreement with UNEP for the provision of technical support to the 6th GCSF process. The GCSF is now institutionalised as the key mechanism for channelling multi-stakeholder views and inputs into the agenda of the UNEP Governing Council. It is the main entry point for civil society participation in environmental governance and global environment agenda setting. Under the terms of the Agreement, ACTS undertakes to provide technical and intellectual leadership in the collation and synthesis of views from major groups and stakeholders as well as synthesis of the key documents for the 23rd UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Conference meeting to be held in February 2005. The project is supported by a grant from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

For its part, ACTS not only supported the work of the Africa Council Society Host Community (ACSHC), but was also actively involved in its formation. This was done in close collaboration with UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch of the DPDL. The ACSHC comprised a broad and balanced representation of sub-regions, key civil society interests and institutions from across Africa. Selection was based on fairly comprehensive criteria taking into account

such issues as gender, youth, Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Anglophone-Lusophone-Francophone, regional and host-country representation. Co-ordinated by ACTS, initial members of the ACSHC worked on an interim basis to guide the evolving agenda and discussing towards the 6th GCSF.

The first meeting of the ACSHC was held on November 15, 2004, just a day before the African Civil Society Forum (ACSF) regional meeting held on November 16-17, 2004. Both meetings were co-ordinated by ACTS, with valuable assistance from the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch of the DPDL. The ACSF meeting approved the ACSHC with valuable amendments regarding gender balance, youth representation and representation of SIDS. Equally important, the ACSF meeting concluded the African regional statement to the GC23/GMEF. One of the major challenges for the ACSHC, the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch of the DPDL and ACTS was to ensure continuous exchange of information and interaction among civil society organizations in the period leading to the 6th GCSF. By ensuring timely availability of background documentation and information on other simultaneous sub-regional preparatory processes, the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch was instrumental in ensuring the success of this objective.

It was ACTS responsibility to disseminate these documents not only to the ACSHC but also to the entire ACSF group and other accredited organizations. This task was effectively discharged. ACTS also moderated the discussions that evolved around these documents and helped integrate the various views and inputs into the agenda of the 6th GCSF.

In line with this task, ACTS helped to successfully organize a GCSF statement drafting team meeting on December 3, 2004. The team managed to draft the GCSF statement for the GC23/GMEF. Implementing the GCSF project has been a challenging and rewarding experience for ACTS and its partners like the ACSHC. The process leading to the 6th GCSF, the ACSF meeting, the GCS drafting team meeting, the GCSF, the GC23/GMEF and the related side events exposed critical challenges regarding the preparations for the GCSFs. The key challenges identified include the need for adequate financial resources, the need for early preparations and meticulous planning, and time and patience for adequate consultations and engagement of stakeholders in the process. These three issues lie at the heart of some of the things that need to be critically considered in preparation for future GCSFs and civil society participation in GC/GMEF processes.

The formal constitution of the African Civil Society Steering Committee on the Environment (ACSSCE) is one great step in the right direction. This ACSSCE evolved from the African Civil Society ad hoc Host Committee (ACSHC). The main aim of ACSSCE is to provide an institutional mechanism for strengthening civil society engagement with UNEP, ROA, NEPAD other initiatives on environment towards the next GCSF to be held in Nairobi in 2007. The rationale for this lies in the fact that the Africa hosts the GCSF every alternative year. The ACSF designated ACTS to co-ordinate the activities of the committee. This initiative requires the support of all people, institutions and governments of goodwill.

Intellectual Property Protection in Africa: An Assessment of the Status of Laws, Research and Policy Analysis on Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) have gained prominence in the post-industrial age, where the manufacture and manipulation of goods has given way to the production of knowledge and application of the same in innovation. In the knowledge economy IPR have assumed various roles. They act as an incentive to invent and innovate, and as tools for ensuring equitable and fair utilization of genetic resources, and promotion of the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of their components. ACTS implemented an IPR project in 2003 project through funding by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Nairobi, Kenya. The focus of this study was on the trends in IPR protection, administration, enforcement and research in the five countries namely Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. The main forms of IPR protection covered by this study are patents, trademarks, copyrights, industrial designs and plant breeder's rights. The focus on these types of IPR is mainly because these are the most commonly used types of IP protection, in the study countries. Other emerging areas of IP protection such as layout designs of integrated circuits and geographical indication, are only mentioned in a very general way. The study also discusses and analyses the status of the law and policy, the administrative and management institutions and the challenges that each of the five countries faces in implementing international treaties for the protection of IP.

The main objective of the study was to review and analyze current IPR practices in select African countries, identify the challenges for policy implementation, and document the capacity available in select African countries and research institutions to deal with IPR laws and policies. Some of the specific objectives of the project were to provide an analytical review drawn from current research, and the state-of-the-art knowledge of IPR issues in Africa, with specific attention to certain key topics as agreed with IDRC. Another specific objective was to review current IPR practices and to identify the conceptual issues and challenges for policy formulation and implementation of an effective IP regime in selected countries in the light of evolving international policies and practices. The study was also to specifically contribute to the design of instruments, processes and procedures that allow African countries to better profit from global opportunities, and assist them to promote coherence between their domestic economic policies and their international trade policies.

A regional workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya on August 23--24, 2004. This workshop sought to review the study findings, prioritise recommendations and the way forward. A synthesis paper was the focus for deliberations in the workshop. The Nairobi workshop brought together scholars, practitioners, policy makers and stakeholders in various government ministries, sub-regional bodies, organizations and private sector in Eastern and Southern Africa. The workshop also helped contribute towards the refinement of the synthesis paper where a number of specific issues and recommendations were raised and given, respectively. The synthesis paper is due for publication by ACTS in the Ecopolity Series.

Towards a Regional Approach to Biotechnology and Biosafety (the RABESA Initiative)

This project commenced in June 2004 with the overall objective of generating and analyzing technical information needed to inform the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) countries on regional biotechnology and biosafety policy choices. The project idea originated from the COMESA in 1997 in response to concerns that the proliferation of GMOs may impact on trade and food security in unknown ways, while COMESA was not prepared to guide the region through the anticipated eventualities. COMESA approached ASARECA in 2003, seeking technical guidance and policy advice on how to address biotechnology/biosafety issues at a regional level. In response to COMESA's call, ASARECA's Eastern and Central Africa Programme for Agricultural Policy Analysis (ECAPAPA), the Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) and the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), are technically supporting COMESA in the implementation of the project. ACTS is charged with the overall technical coordination and implementation of RABESA. The initiative is being funded by the USAID/REDSO.

The case study countries covered by the project are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Egypt. The project is designed to conduct stakeholder analysis in the ASARECA and COMESA countries, highlighting opportunities, challenges, views and positions related to trade, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and food security. The project is also endeavouring to estimate the impacts of GMO crops on farm income in the ASARECA and COMESA region and analyze the commercial risks that ASARECA and COMESA countries are likely to face in

the destination export markets, both regionally and internationally, if permission to plant GMO crops was granted.

At the conclusion of the project, several outputs will have been generated, including a body of knowledge on the implications of biotechnology on trade and food security will be generated and a comprehensive analysis of the potential costs and benefits of adoption of GMO crops at farm level will also be available. It is also hoped that the capacity of policy makers to make informed choices and decisions on trade in GMO products and emergency food aid with GM content will be built. Finally a range of feasible policy options and choices will be proposed for biotechnology and biosafety in the ASARECA and COMESA region.



Assistant minister, Trade and Industry, the Hon. Petkey Meriti arrives for an ACTS-WTO workshop at a Nairobi Hotel

During the year under review, there was a two-day meeting in Nairobi in August 2004 to review the initial work plan and budget. Key persons from the organizations implementing this project attended the meeting. The executive director of ACTS, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Dr. Isaac Minde, and Prof. Robert Paalberg from PBS, USA and ACTS project staff attended the meeting. At this meeting the focus of the project was sharpened. Emphasis was placed on the "Implications of Modern Biotechnology on Trade and Food Security". As a follow-up of the recommendations given in the meeting that reviewed the work plan and budget, a web page outlining objectives and activities of the project with logos of the project partners was created on the ACTS website in August 2004. The web page address is: <http://www.acts.or.ke/ECAPAPA-Project.htm>. In October 2004, National Resource Persons (NRPs) were identified and engaged in the six case study countries to assist in collecting and analyzing technical data.

Climate Change

ACTS has in the past played a leading role in climate change studies in Africa. Presently we are carrying out various activities that are linked to climate change under the auspices of the Regional and International Networking Group (RING). Among the more salient activities undertaken, ACTS prepared a paper on the use of seed fairs for drought recovery in Kenya. This will be published in a special issue of IDS Sussex bulletin on adaptation to climate change. In addition ACTS is among the founder members of the Linking Climate Adaptation (LCA) Project network, which is concerned with availing information on adaptation to climate to both practitioners and policy makers worldwide. This work was funded by DFID through IIED and IDS-Sussex.

The Centre is playing a key role in the project: Capacity Strengthening in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC). Under this programme, ACTS will host three fellows as part of our role as the regional coordinating partner. This is meant to strengthen the capacities of the civil society organizations they come from to participate more effectively on climate change initiatives in their countries. This will form part of the contribution that CLACC makes to climate change initiatives in the region. Papers generated will be synthesized and published in ACTS Ecopolicy series.

ACTS has been involved in several other projects jointly with other organizations. The Centre was engaged with the EU and ICTSD last year in sustainable development, environment and trade matters. ACTS facilitated the different meetings in Maputo and Stellenbosch, and prepared the background papers for discussion. Some of the outputs are going to be used by the trade negotiators in Geneva once the discussions/negotiations on environment and trade kick off.

Governing Council operations

The African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)' supreme policy organ is the Governing Council (GC). During 2004, there were a few changes in the composition of the governing council. The primary duties of the Governing are to interpret policies and formulate principles which guide the design of the activities of the Centre, conduct periodic reviews and approve the Centre's budget and audit of accounts, admit new members of the Centre who are not Founding Subscribers, appointment of members of the various committees, appoint the Executive Director as well as monitoring programme performance. The GC also ensures that operational plans and control processes are in place and working. There were twelve members of the Governing Council in 2004 drawn from sovereign states, inter-governmental organizations, and academic/policy research institutions, corporate and non-governmental organizations as well as a representative appointed by the host country (Kenya). The GC meets once a year. The Executive Committee, which is the body that coordinates and monitors the management and financial affairs as well as the execution of the programme of the Centre, meets 5-6 times a year. Other committees of the Council are Nominations and Programme committees, which meet regularly.

The Governing Council Members

Dr. Chrissie Mwiyeriwa

Chair

Dr. Mwiyeriwa was, until October 2004, the Principal Secretary of the National Research Council of Malawi. She is a veterinary surgeon, educator and scientist. Dr. Mwiyeriwa resigned at the end of 2004 after leaving employment with the Government of Malawi whom she was representing on the Council.

Mr. Ivar Baste

Vice-Chair

Mr. Baste is Chief, Environment Assessment Branch, Division of Early Warning and Assessment at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi. His current term runs to February 2006.

Mr. Bruce R. Scott

Chair, Executive Committee

Mr. Scott is the Director of Partnerships and Communication at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi. His term runs up to February 2006.

Prof. Goran Hyden

Chair, Nominations Committee

Prof. Hyden has served as a GC member for the last 10 years. At the time of his retirement in December 2004 he had served as Chair of GC for 3 years. He rendered his services to the Centre with dedication and commitment.

Prof. G.B.A. Okello

Member of Executive and Programme Committees

Prof. Okello is the Secretary General and acting Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). He is serving on the Council as the representative of the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWA). TWA is a founding subscriber to ACTS' Charter. His appointment on the Council runs up to February, 2006.

Dr. Manu Chandaria

Chair, Investment Committee

Dr. Chandaria is the Chairman of Comcraft Kenya Limited, Nairobi and is a renowned entrepreneur. His term will come to an end in February 2005.

Dr. Brent Swallow

Chair, Programme Committee and member of Executive Committee

Dr. Swallow is the Theme Leader for Environmental Services at the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) in Nairobi. He represents ICRAF who is a founding subscriber of ACTS.

Mr. Douglas Odette

Member of Executive Committee

Mr. Odette is the Senior Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and represented the host country (Kenya) on the Council.

Mr. Wilfred Kenely

Member, Investment Committee

Mr. Kenely is the Chief Executive of the Malta Council for Science and Technology and represents the Government of Malta who is a founding subscriber of ACTS.

Prof. Ratemo Michieka

Member, Executive Committee

Prof. Michieka is the Director-General of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). Prof. Michieka served on ACTS' Council for a several years when the Council was constituted and left. He rejoined the GC effective February 2004 for a period of 3 years.

Prof. Mohamed Abdel Aal

Programme and Nominations Committees

Prof. Abdel Aal is the Vice-Dean for Environment and Community Service, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University. He was appointed in October 2004 for a period of 3 years.

Mr. Malik K. Manda

Mr. Manda replaced Dr. Mwiyeriwa as a representative of the Government of Malawi when Dr. Mwiyeriwa left the National Research Council of Malawi (NRCM) in November 2004. Mr. Manda is currently heading the NRCM..

Staff developments in 2004

New Staff

In September 2004, **Mr. David Wafula** joined the Centre on a one-year contract as a Research Fellow. Wafula had previously worked at ACTS but left in 2002 to pursue his master's degree programme in the Netherlands.

Departures

Dr. Evans Kituyi, a Senior Research Fellow and Consultant, left ACTS in July at the end of his consultancy contract.

Mr. Martin Mutua, a Project Accountant, resigned from ACTS in November to take up employment elsewhere.

Internships

Mr. Andrew Adwerah from University of Nairobi, joined ACTS in August to work as a research intern.

Ms. Fridah Nkirote from Kenyatta University, joined ACTS in October to work as an intern in the Finance Department.

Staff List as at December 31, 2004

Prof. Judi Wakhungu	Executive Director
Mr. George Sikoyo	Research Fellow
Mr. Christopher Huggins	Research Fellow
Mr. Benson Ochieng'	Research Fellow
Mr. David Wafula	Research Fellow
Mr. Joseph Nyabicha	Finance Manager
Mrs. Anna Ogalo	IT/HR Manager
Mr. Victor Orindi	Asst. Research Fellow
Mrs. Susan Murunga	PA to Executive Director
Mr. Tom Ogaga	Procurement Officer
Ms. Elvin Nyukuri	Library/Admin. Assistant
Mrs. Celline Achieng	Research/Admin. Assistant
Ms. Joan Kariuki	Research/Admin. Assistant
Mr. Harrison Maganga	Publications/PR Officer
Mrs. Mary Muthoni	Publications/Admin. Assistant
Mr. Johnson Njenga	Driver
Ms. Fridah Nkirote	Accounts Intern
Mr. Andrew Adwerah	Research Intern

Finance and Administration

Finance and administration continued to discharge its duties with due diligence and astuteness that resulted into timely preparation of budgets and financial reports to management and relevant institutions. Although financial resources continue to constrain ACTS' activities, proper financial management ensured that interruption of operations was kept at the minimum. Going forward, ACTS will need to tighten its budgetary and financial controls to ensure sustainability of programme works.

List of Donors

The African Centre for Technology Studies operates with assistance from donors and other partners. Without the support of the donor community, the Centre could not have achieved its objectives for the year 2004. The Centre would like to thank all institutions that have provided support, whether financially or through strategic collaboration. We would like to thank the following organizations for their support in 2004 and look forward to increased association in the coming years.

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID),
- The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).
- Environmental Law Institute.
- The International Development Research Council (IDRC).
- Ford Foundation.
- Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA).
- The Regional Land Management (RELMA).

ACTS' SUMMARIZED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income & Expenditure Statement	2004	2003
	US\$	Restated US\$
Income		
Grants	834,391	650,483
Consultancy	193,171	110,004
Sundry	2,173	8,232
Total Income	1,029,735	768,719
Expenses		
Programme	778,374	550,867
Administrative	252,941	176,660
Total Expenses	1,031,315	727,527
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	-1,580	41,192
Balance Sheet		
Assets		
Non-current Assets	1,279,943	1,287,662
Current Assets	227,299	424,435
Total Assets	1,507,242	1,712,097
Equity and Liabilities		
Reserves	1,359,471	1,361,051
Non-current Liabilities	7,110	14,829
Current Liabilities	140,661	336,217
Total Equity and Liabilities	1,507,242	1,712,097

Executive Director's Office

The Executive Director provides overall executive direction, management, policy guidance and leadership in developing and implementing ACTS' programme of work. The Director is also responsible for co-ordinating the mobilization of resources (financial, human and informational). These responsibilities not only require a good organizational acumen and administrative support, but also a fair amount of financial, intellectual and human resources management acumen.

The ED's office will invest in a variety of activities in the year 2005. It will continue to invest in intellectual, financial and other related resources in mobilizing resources for ACTS' Endowment Fund and to raise funds for ACTS' core activities, including administrative support to the operations of the Governing Council and its bodies and the strengthening of ACTS Programmes. The office will also invest in marketing the Strategic Plan for 2004-2008, reviewing and developing new programmes, and/or projects in line with the strategy.

Publications and Outreach

The publications and outreach department was active in its support for programmes and projects in publication and dissemination of information to the general public. There was an increased participation in workshops organized by ACTS by government officials, mainly ministers and assistant ministers. This serves as a bridge between the Centre and the government in this region of Africa. It also builds a bridge between the Centre and leaders in the public sector to reach the general public. In this way, greater awareness is fostered for projects, especially as it relates to science and technology. This engagement resulted in a heightened interest in the activities of ACTS. In Kenya, the public relations office made sure that at one government official attended and presided over the opening ceremonies. This inevitably leads to greater positive media attention that in turn results in awareness creation.

There was also an increasing engagement with the media. Almost all the workshops and seminars organized by ACTS were well covered both in the electronic and print media and even the internet. Several articles were published in the media. ACTS also ran supplements and feature articles in array of magazines and other publications. The Centre arranged for a site visit for the media to Lake Jipe, one of the sites studied in the Transboundary Natural Resources Project to have a first hand view of how activities on the borders can affect use of resources in neighbouring countries.

We are working with project researchers to ensure that future seminars and workshops are appropriately harnessed to reap the most in terms of dissemination, publicity and grassroots awareness

Publications play a vital and pivotal role in the dissemination of project outputs. The publications department kept with demand from project researchers to convert their research outputs into consumables in the form of publications. The department also arranged to ensure that the publications reached the targeted audience and attended almost all workshops arranged by the Centre to disseminate the publications.



*Some ACTS staff members
at a function:
Mr. Tom Ogaga,
Procurement Officer;
Mrs. Mary Mboya,
Production Officer and
Ms. Elvin Nyukuri,
Research Assistant*

ACTS has published the following publications
in the recent past:

The Political Economy of the Trips Agreement: Origins and History of Negotiations.
Biopolicy No. 24, A. O. Adede

Property Rights and Biodiversity Management in Kenya: The Case of Land Tenure and Wildlife. Patricia Kameri-Mbote

Scarcity and Surfeit: The Ecology of Africa's Conflicts. Jeremy Lind and K. Sturman

Shared Aquatic Ecosystems of East Africa: Status and Trends. J. W. Wakhungu and G. M. Sikoyo

Shared Terrestrial Ecosystems of East Africa: Towards Conviviality. J. W. Wakhungu and G. M. Sikoyo

Shared Ecosystems of East Africa: Socio-Economic Uses and Management.
J. W. Wakhungu and G. M. Sikoyo

Shared Ecosystems of East Africa: Institutional Analysis. J. W. Wakhungu and G. M. Sikoyo

Harnessing Life Cycle Approaches for Africa's Development: Institutional and Policy Challenges. Evans Kituyi and Judi Wakhungu

Preventing Conflict Through Improved Policies on Land Tenure, Natural Resource Rights and Migration in the Great Lakes Region: An Applied Research, Networking and Advocacy Project: Eco-conflicts Vo 13 No.37, January 2004 by Chris Huggins

Towards Responsible Enterprise Development in Kenya: Perspectives for Government and Corporate Leaders. Policy Brief. Evans Kituyi, et. al.

Wither Farmers Rights? Reflections on Kenya's Seed and Plant Act, Ecopolicy No. 13: Judi Wakhungu, et. al.

Land, Conflict and Livelihoods in the Great Lakes Region: Testing Policies to the Limit, Ecopolicy No 14: Chris Huggins et. al.

Conference Proceedings:

Land Tenure and Conflict in Africa: Prevention, Mitigation and Reconstruction—Nairobi December 9-10 (Report)

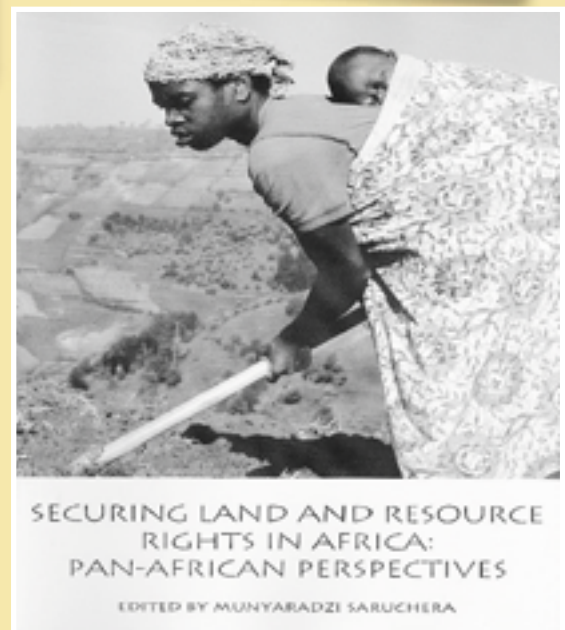
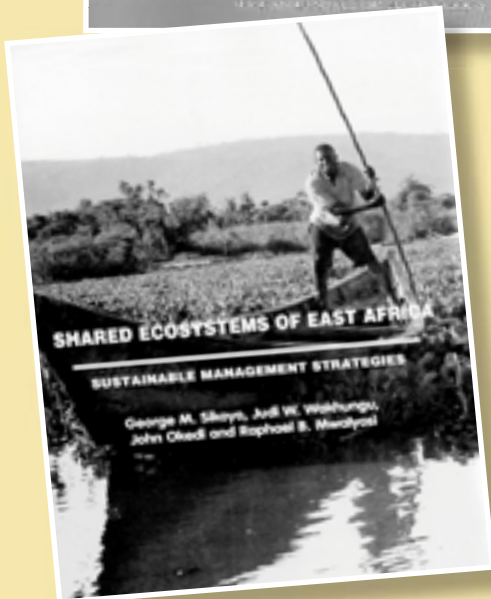
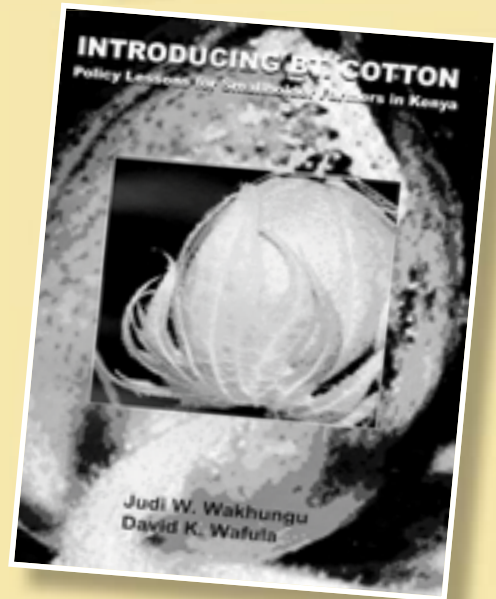
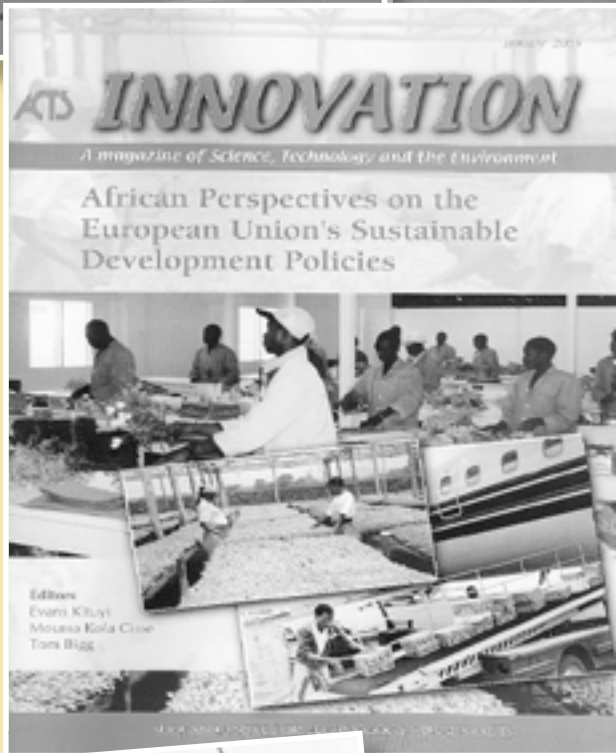
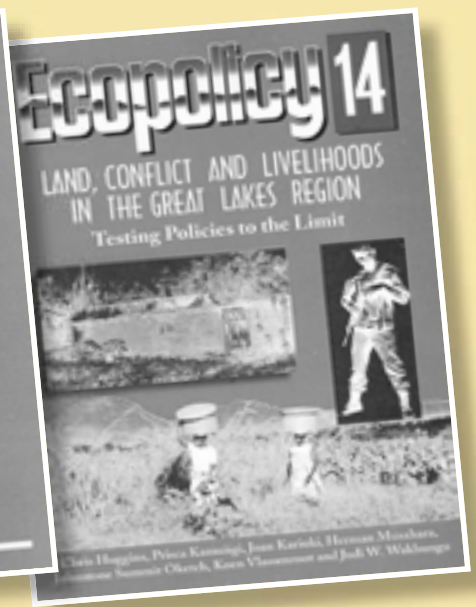
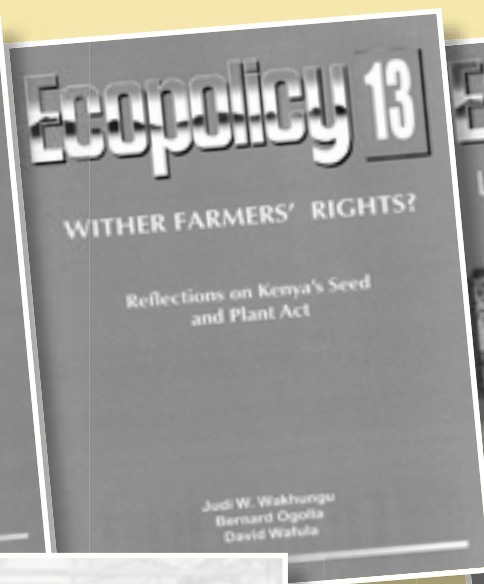
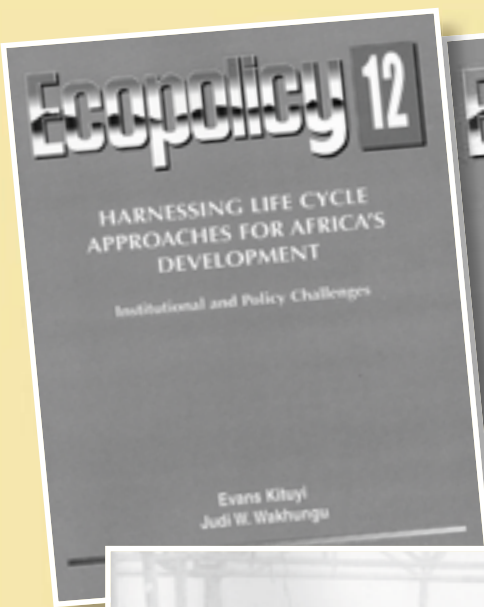
Land Tenure and Conflict in Africa: Prevention, Mitigation and Reconstruction—Nairobi December 9-10 (Summary Report)

On Violence and Vulnerability: Exploring the Impacts of Conflict on Capacities to Adapt to Climate Change. Policy Brief: Jeremy Lind and Siri Eriksen

Land Access and Refugee Repatriation: The Case of Burundi. Policy Brief, P. M. Kamungi, et. al.

Land Reform, Land Scarcity and Post Conflict Reconstruction: A Case of Rwanda. H. Musahara and C. Huggins

Introducing Bt. Cotton: Policy Lessons for Smallholder Farmers in Kenya, Judi Wakhungu and David Wafula



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ACTS' Vision

*Better living standards for all in Africa
through harnessing science and technology
for sustainable development*



ACTS' Mission

*To strengthen the capacity of African countries
and institutions to harness science and technology
for sustainable development*