

7 March 2010

To Colleagues Interested in the Commons:

Scholars interested in a variety of common-pool resources and public goods are scattered across the world and in multiple disciplines interested in diverse common resources. We were fortunate to be able to establish the International Association for the Study of the Commons two decades ago. This has provided us a forum that disciplinary meetings do not. We can engage in a very serious and cumulative discussion of how diverse groups at multiple scales have or have not solved problems of great importance. IASC is now itself a "global commons" committed to the production and dissemination of knowledge, which is a "public good," about how many diverse institutions help or hinder the solutions of common-pool resources, in complex social-ecological settings. As members, we also face a social dilemma in keeping IASC funded. Without our contributions, IASC is not sustainable over time.

I have learned so much from being a member of IASC, and I hope that you will join in this effort by renewing your membership or becoming a member.

Regards,

Elinor Ostrom

Former President and Current Active Member of IASC