



### UNPOP in Progress

Welcome to the first UNPOP newsletter! UNPOP is the Utrecht Nijmegen Programme on Partnerships. With this newsletter, we not only want to inform you about our progress, but we also would like to invite you to contact us, to share your ideas, and to cooperate on new and viable initiatives for sustainable development.

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**Prof. dr. Pieter Glasbergen, Chair of the programme**

## Newsletter 1 December 2006



### The UNPOP team

From left to right:

Pieter Leroy, Mara Francken, Ingrid Visseren, Pieter Glasbergen, Mariëtte van Huijstee and Bas Arts.

### Report: Colloquium "Partnerships for sustainable development", June 2006

In June, UNPOP, the KNAW and the Dutch Ministry of VROM organised the colloquium and PhD master class "Partnerships for Sustainable Development: The Challenge of connecting private and public responsibilities". An international group of partnership researchers and practitioners with different partnership paradigms met in person for the first time. In the PhD master class that was organised, around twenty PhD researchers got the chance to present their work to each other and to several senior partnership researchers, which led to useful ideas on how to further improve their work.

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### Report: Seminar "Evaluation of Partnerships", October 2006

On October 18, UNPOP and NCDO (National Commission for international collaboration and Sustainable Development) organised the seminar "Evaluation of Partnerships" in Artis Zoo, Amsterdam. Thirty practitioners and academics discussed frameworks for evaluation as well as actual examples of partnerships and the way they are, aren't, should and shouldn't be evaluated.

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### Research project I "Partnerships for biodiversity"

This project researches the role of partnerships in the biodiversity governance system. Until today, partnerships for forest and marine biodiversity have been researched. The work on forest biodiversity shows that the development of numerous partnerships for forest biodiversity has major implications for the role of governments.

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### Research project II "Intersectoral partnerships for sustainable commodity chains"

This project researches the role partnerships play in making commodity chains more sustainable. Recently, the coffee chain and several partnerships therein have been studied. The work on the coffee chain shows that partnership initiatives can and do fulfil different functions, but their results in terms of changes towards sustainability in the chain are limited.

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### Research project III "Stakeholder dialogues of multinationals with NGOs"

This research project has focussed on the general characteristics of the dialogue practice of multinationals with NGOs. Results suggest that the contribution to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of dialogues between multinationals and NGOs on a corporate level can be mostly found in improvement of CSR policies, although dialogues do not seem crucial to make these improvements.

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**Utrecht-Nijmegen Programme On Partnerships**

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