



## Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn

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## Putting People First: Training, Capacity Building, Institutional Strengthening

### At a Glance...

The Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn (ASB) consortium tackles two of the most pressing issues of our time - the related problems of deforestation and human poverty at the margins of tropical forests. Working together, ASB's many and varied partners identify policy, technological, and institutional options to balance conservation and development. In order to continue this vital work, ASB must secure the financial support to bridge information and training gaps that isolate local and national partners in developing countries from other members of the network. ASB is seeking funding for institutional strengthening activities that will narrow the North-South capacity gap in techniques for integrated natural resource assessment, research, and management.

*...bridging  
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### A Strong Foundation

Over the past decade, ASB's partners have helped identify and develop sustainable land use systems that balance economic and environmental objectives. A key to ASB's success is the strong **relationships** among the partners in the consortium – over 50 research centres, non-governmental organizations, universities, and national and local groups. ASB's work begins on the ground, at benchmark sites throughout the tropics where researchers assess environmental, economic, and social aspects of land-use systems. Results from this work are then synthesized across the sites, to gain insights into management options at a global scale.

ASB has developed simple, cost-effective research and assessment methods that ensure scientific rigour and allow results to be compared across sites. A series of lecture notes and training materials have been developed not only for these assessment methods but also to provide partners with essential background materials, suggested discussion topics, and an introduction to various aspects of integrated natural resource management. ASB has experienced, effective trainers to deliver these materials.

*strategic  
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opportunities*

### Closing Gaps, Building Strength

The new challenge is to build on ASB's innovative work to date and ensure that all members of the consortium have the **knowledge** and **capacity** for integrated natural resource management.

Most of ASB's partners are in developing countries – where lack of access to information, technical expertise, and other resources seriously impairs their ability to research and promote natural resource management options.

Again and again, local and national partners put support for **institutional strengthening** as their top priority from ASB.

To achieve this, ASB is seeking funding for strategic training and capacity-building opportunities to enable and empower these partners.

Specifically, this initiative includes:

**1. Training Courses and Video Series** in appropriate methods for assessing natural resource management. These training activities would build southern partners' capacity in techniques for integrated natural resource assessment, research, and management. Topics would include rapid assessment of

aboveground biodiversity; agronomic sustainability; analytical tools for social, economic, and policy analysis; and other indicators for integrated assessment of natural resource issues. Training courses would be videotaped for broader distribution. ASB estimates **\$100,000 per topic** for these critical training modules.

**2. International workshops** to address the 'so what' questions arising from on-going work. This series of workshops would link on-the-ground results from ASB's partners in the South with other international leaders in these fields. ASB is planning 3 initial workshops: spatial analysis of tropical landscape mosaics; assessing ecosystems and human well-being; and policy options for tradeoffs between conservation and development. Workshop products will feed directly into ASB's Millennium Ecosystem Assessment work. ASB estimates **\$65,000 for each event**.

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